




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Townsville, Project Booyah

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.34 pm): When young people get in trouble with the law, it does not have to come with a life sentence of criminal activity. It does not have to become an endless cycle of offending, arrest, court appearance and incarceration. With young people there is a window of opportunity; there is an opportunity to turn things around. There is a chance to change lives, and that is what Project Booyah is all about.

The police-led, award-winning program changes young people's lives. Project Booyah leads troubled youths away from crime and back to productive lives. Project Booyah is doing that right here in Townsville. Project Booyah in Townsville utilises adventure based learning, decision-making, problem solving, resilience training, policing strategies and family-inclusive principles to help young people aged 14 to 17 make better life choices. A cohort of recent Project Booyah graduates in Townsville said that participation in the project had so completely changed their outlook on life that they now had ambitions to join the Australian Defence Force and the Queensland Police Service.

This program is, in short, better focused to prevent crime than deal with the consequences of crime. We have more police than ever before in Queensland and police arrest those who commit crime, but programs like Project Booyah get in first. These programs help prevent further offending and this government is investing in crime prevention. In the state budget, \$1.8 million was allocated to the highly successful Project Booyah Framing the Future initiative to provide community based youth support and mentorship across nine locations throughout Queensland, including Townsville. On top of this Framing the Future investment amount, a further \$3.2 million has been allocated to support Project Booyah's life-changing work. Project Booyah gives those who embrace the opportunity renewed self-confidence, vastly altered future prospects and the ability to make good life decisions.

Today—right now—outside this building members can see Project Booyah at work. It has set up its coffee cart called the Booyah Bean cart here in the parliamentary precinct and I invite everyone here—those in the gallery, those in the chamber, everyone on the precinct—to come along and have a coffee with the Project Booyah team, listen to the young people's stories for whom this project has changed their lives and speak with some of our talented staff who support this project. I can give members one assurance: just like Project Booyah, the coffee is good and strong as well.