




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Pumicestone Electorate, Youth Development Foundation

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.03 pm): The people of Queensland know that the Palaszczuk government is all about jobs. That is why I am proud to speak today about a project that will make a big difference for young people seeking work in my beautiful electorate of Pumicestone. The Youth Development Foundation, led by Gerry Blackwell, has a strong history of supporting young people right across Moreton Bay. In the latest round of Skilling Queenslanders for Work funding, YDF received \$497,000 for their project at Congeau House. Congeau House is a remarkable Federation home built on Bribie Island in 1916 that has provided holiday accommodation for people with disability and vulnerable people since the 1960s. After decades of community service it is no wonder Congeau House is now looking a bit tired.

YDF's project will allow Bribie's young people to complete a Certificate I in construction while they give Congeau House a much needed refresh. They will do maintenance jobs plus improve the site by building pathways, seats, pergolas, cubbyhouses, play equipment and garden beds. Already YDF has found 17 young people who are interested in signing up—and no wonder. Their previous program had 13 participants. Of those, six have found work, four have gone on to further education under JobTrainer and one young man returned to school. YDF also employed young local woman Nicki Pool from the program. Nicki will run reception at YDF's new office on Bribie Island and is enrolling in a Certificate III Business Traineeship in April.

Together, YDF and the Palaszczuk Labor government are creating a hopeful future for young people across Pumicestone. The contrast with the LNP's track record could not be starker. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is one of the most successful programs ever created when it comes to getting young people into work and training. Deloitte Access Economics reported in 2012 that Skilling Queenslanders for Work had at that time helped 57,000 young people find a job and returned \$8 to the Queensland economy for every one dollar invested. Cutting Skilling Queenslanders for Work was one of the first things the LNP did when they came to power in 2012. They ignored Deloitte's report card, cutting Skilling Queenslanders for Work one week before the report went public.

When the member for Surfers Paradise was the LNP's education minister he got out his big shiny knife and cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work. That cut hope for young jobseekers right across Queensland. The people of Queensland saw the LNP for what they were. Our Palaszczuk Labor government rebuilt Skilling Queenslanders for Work in 2015 and it has gone from strength to strength ever since. I cannot wait to see what Gerry and YDF achieve as they transform Congeau House and the lives of young people right across Pumicestone.