




Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2021

ADJOURNMENT

WorkAbility NDIS Jobs Roadshow

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.28 pm): Last week I attended the WorkAbility NDIS Jobs Roadshow. It was a mass recruitment event for people wanting to find work in the disability or community services areas. The roadshow was a chance for jobseekers to meet local employers face to face, talk about the jobs that they have available and hear about the various organisations to get a feel for whether that organisation is the right fit for them. It was also an opportunity to have speed interviews with jobseekers. People learnt more about the industries and met local employers. It was a great chance for jobseekers to put themselves out there. A broad range of jobseekers attended including students, school leavers, existing workers looking for a new opportunities, people returning to work and people looking to switch industries such as from tourism to retail or construction and so on.

The NDIS jobs roadshows have been successfully running all around Queensland over the past two years, through both online and face-to-face events, to help grow the NDIS workforce as the disability services sector expands. It is really exciting that job events were taking place in Rockhampton and helping to create local jobs.

There are thousands of jobs available in Queensland to meet growing demand. The NDIS is growing massively and there are jobs available for support workers, registered nurses, transport drivers, physios and occupational therapists and in back-of-house roles such as admin coordinators and rostering officers. This is an industry that offers career permanency and opportunities for personal growth and to upskill in many of the organisations.

Since the NDIS rollout in 2016, half a million Australians now benefit from NDIS and there are approximately 9,100 disability service providers. As part of the growing care and support sector, including aged care, the Australian government estimates that one million workers will be needed by 2050. In Queensland approximately 96,000 people benefit from the NDIS. In Rockhampton there are about 2,350 NDIS participants and 260 NDIS registered service providers. I do not think people realise how big this sector is. I thank all the NDIS workers for the support and assistance they provide to some of our most vulnerable.