



Speech By  
**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Youth Insearch

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (6.03 pm): I rise tonight to draw to the attention of members a great organisation I have heard a lot about called Youth Insearch. Some members may have noticed that during the last sitting I was wearing a pin. I was hoping to get this conversation started. I have to say that everyone I have bailed up about it has been very receptive. Thank you for that.

The motto of Youth Insearch, an independent charitable organisation, is 'Rebuilding young lives' with the Y-O-U in 'young' highlighted. They use an holistic, strength based approach, helping youth aged 14 to 20 to harness their potential and 'turn their disadvantages into advantages'. Since their inception in 1985 Youth Insearch has helped over 30,000 people and is currently working with around 1,000 young people across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

In February one of my staff members attended the Youth Insearch weekend workshop at Camp Duckadang as a kitchen volunteer. Volunteering regularly at this campsite, administered by Lions Clubs International, has become a tradition in her family. I want to thank Leanne and the Mogridge family for their commitment to helping our youth. I know there are equally committed volunteers next door in the member for Bancroft's electorate, and he too is a supporter of this program.

Peer-to-peer support is a cornerstone of Youth Insearch's success, with participants able to listen to each other's stories and realise they are not alone in their struggles. They can also learn from peer feedback and implement strategies they hear from others to turn their own lives around. Concerned mums, dads and grandparents can all inquire. Young people self-refer to start the process. Community intervention, organisations and high schools can also reach out.

This year I have received a number of emails in my office about youth crime. Some of these emails tell me that we need to put more kids in jail to reduce crime. While I agree there might be a time and place for incarceration and we recently introduced legislation for serious repeat offenders, I think we need more awareness of the availability of programs like Youth Insearch. For everyone listening in here and out there, if you have a troubled young person in your care please get in touch with Youth Insearch. The website is [youthinsearch.org.au](http://youthinsearch.org.au).

I want to conclude with a quote from a recent opinion piece by Youth Insearch CEO Stephen Lewin. He refers to an independent review of Youth Insearch by Urbis in 2008 which found that only 17 per cent of Youth Insearch's graduates reoffend. Mr Lewin stated—

Keeping young people out of detention is a key element to reducing juvenile crime, BUT it needs to be complemented with programs that will give young people the sense of self-worth to navigate a successful path through life. This way, everyone benefits.

I wholeheartedly agree.