




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOK

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

PCYC Queensland

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.46 pm): The Palaszczuk government recently announced a \$56 million funding investment to support PCYC Queensland for the construction of new PCYC facilities or the upgrades of existing facilities in the state. I am absolutely thrilled that Mareeba on the tablelands and Aurukun in Cape York will both benefit from this funding boost. I have been working closely with PCYC in both locations over a number of years and am in full support of the work they do in these communities to make a positive impact on the lives of young people in the region.

Queensland PCYC is the leading charity organisation providing youth and community programs, services and facilities across the state. In my electorate of Cook their presence is having a long-lasting impact on the young people who utilise their service. PCYC offers programs and activities that engage young people in a safe and positive environment and encourages positive social interactions with PCYC staff and volunteers. Most importantly, it gives young people the opportunity to interact with each other in a positive and meaningful way. As a parent, I think we all want opportunities for our children to engage in extracurricular activities that would enable them to make friends, develop social and team-building skills and build self-confidence all while being part of a community.

Not all young people have opportunities to engage in sporting clubs to help them grow positive skills that would carry them into adulthood. I want to highlight that for many regional and remote communities, opportunities to engage in sporting clubs are often limited. So the idea of involving young people in extracurricular activities is somewhat unrealistic, and this is a huge deficit for young people living in Cook. This is why I support the work of PCYC, because they fill the void in some communities by providing a service that allows young people to realise their full potential and support positive behaviours into the future.

Mareeba will receive \$5 million to build a brand new PCYC facility and Aurukun in Cape York will receive \$1 million to upgrade the existing facility in the community. I acknowledge the work of sergeant Mary-Anne West in Mareeba, as well as sergeant Steve and his wife Norma, for the wonderful work that they do to support young people in these communities.

It is important that we have services and that we provide investment to support local initiatives that engage young people, to build them into strong individuals into the future. I think giving them a positive start by providing access to positive programs and an opportunity for them to be around other kids and make friends is an important part of growth and development for many young people right across the state. It is no different for the communities that I look after. In the current climate and all of the different issues relating to how we work with young people in this state, I think this is a positive announcement that will influence and build young people for tomorrow. I hope that the investment will have a long-lasting effect on these young people in that it will enable them to make better decisions for themselves. Again, I acknowledge the great work of PCYCs in my electorate, the work of volunteers throughout the region and the community for their support for such a wonderful local initiative.