




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 18 April 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Community Partnership Innovation Grants

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.09 am): On Saturday I announced the successful recipients of the second round of the Palaszczuk government's Community Partnership Innovation Grants. Twelve community groups from across Queensland will share in more than \$3 million in funding for local projects to tackle the complex causes of youth offending. For example, in Cairns, Selectability has received close to \$260,000 to deliver an after-hours outreach and mentoring program in Earlville and Edmonton which builds on the success of the highly successful Fire Project which operated last year. I want to acknowledge the advocacy of the member for Cairns on behalf of his community for this initiative. The Fire Project did a fantastic job diverting young people off the streets and away from crime. I look forward to seeing the outcomes of that project in future.

Winangali Infusion will receive \$300,000 to provide young people in Goondiwindi and in the New South Wales border towns of Boggabilla and Toomelah with a safe and supervised community hub at the local PCYC for prosocial opportunities, cultural education and recreational activities. I acknowledge the advocacy of the local member for the community there also. Queensland Youth Services will receive almost \$130,000 to deliver the Proud Warrior project in Mount Isa and Townsville. This project will provide intervention for primarily Indigenous young people who are at risk of disengaging from school, young people from low socio-economic households and cases where young people are known, or their family is known, to police.

Logan-based Youth Off the Streets will receive nearly \$300,000 to support First Nations, Pasifika and African communities through culturally responsive wrap-around support. I was delighted to meet representatives from Youth Off the Streets on Saturday and hear firsthand of the great work that it is doing locally and its passion for helping young people at risk of offending. I know the Treasurer has also sung this organisation's praises as it is based in his electorate and I look forward to sharing the outcomes from the program with him after the evaluation is completed. There are many other very worthwhile initiatives including in Toowoomba, and I acknowledge local members there have raised a number of those initiatives with me as well. I look forward to the outcomes of those projects.

The Palaszczuk government is proud to partner with these community groups. It is another way we are working to tackle youth crime and ensure community safety. In recent years we have implemented a range of policies and initiatives to keep our community safe. Our latest tranche of reforms focused on serious repeat offenders, continued our efforts to tackle the complex causes of youth crime and further supported community safety. Included in the package was an investment of an additional \$100 million in diversionary and rehabilitation programs proven to make a difference, including 80 new frontline jobs in early intervention, prevention and diversion. The initiatives and policies implemented by the Palaszczuk government have been informed by feedback from stakeholders, our police and justice agencies and the general community and are the result of careful consideration. This

is what good government does: we listen, we consult, we consider and we act. We are not about to rest on our laurels. We will continue to engage with stakeholders and listen to the community and take action where necessary to keep the community safe.