



Speech By  
**Hon. Michael Healy**


**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Youth Development Partnership Fund

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (9.54 am): I am a strong believer in the power of sport and its ability to shape young lives. Intervention and engagement are vitally important in addressing youth crime and keeping Queenslanders safe. It can also play a crucial role to divert at-risk youth from reoffending. We are seeing the benefits of this through our \$4 million Youth Development Partnership Fund. It is a statewide joint initiative between the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport and the Queensland Police Service.

The aim of the fund is to utilise the power of sport to help deliver an avenue for personal growth and development for young people. This is so vitally important. The fund is already having great success. I have seen it firsthand through programs in Cairns such as Cairns Safer Streets and Moonlight Hoops. The effect that it has had on changing young people's lives in my town is why I am championing this program to go statewide.

Logan's R.E.A.P the Rewards program teaches touch football skills to young people who are disengaged from education and unfortunately involved in repeat offender behaviour. We know that they start to enjoy it. They start to understand the skills of teamwork and respect for one another. In 2023 the successful R.E.A.P the Rewards program helped 93 per cent of those participating in the program to stop or decrease their offending. More than half stopped offending completely in the months following. One has since secured employment, while another has joined the NRL RISE Program. The Youth Development Partnership Fund supported this positive program to continue and expanded it to Dalby.

Meanwhile in Townsville at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, the Rugby League Helping the Community Program focuses on teaching disengaged 12- to 16-year-olds and high-risk juvenile offenders. This program is yielding positive results, with training sessions regularly supported by former NRL and Queensland Rugby League stars. This sets an absolutely fantastic model for those kids who are attending these programs.

The Youth in Touch—One Step at a Time, run by the Bundaberg Touch Football Association, fosters positive relationships between youth and the Queensland Police Service. The young people receive comprehensive touch football training, building up to finals day when they play alongside police officers. This builds a strong rapport and a greater understanding between those two important groups. This also helps to shape their perception of those officers both as police but more importantly as team-mates.

These are but three examples of the great work being done. Today I can announce that, in collaboration with the Queensland Police Service, we have now approved another six programs to be delivered—new initiatives across several locations including Caboolture, South Burnett, Toowoomba and Brisbane. It is an almost \$600,000 commitment to helping young people find a better way and to build a better future through sporting activities.