



## **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

### **Member for Ipswich**

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### **DISABLED SCHOOL LEAVERS GAIN NEW HOPE IN IPSWICH JOBS PROJECT**

Forty-one disabled school leavers are receiving a helping hand to break into the competitive Ipswich jobs market under a \$62 030 State Government project.

The Member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan said today Ipswich Community Youth Service would receive the funding under the Government's *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative to manage *Increasing Options*, a 12-month project to help the young people, particularly those with intellectual impairments.

"These young school leavers need more support to successfully enter the workforce," she said. "This project will develop individual training and employment plans for them, including work experience and job search training.

"They also will receive literacy and numeracy assistance, help with social and living skills and work experience opportunities.

"The project had been spurred by research undertaken as part of an Education and Training Reforms for the Future initiative in the Corinda-Ipswich area.

"The research, conducted with Disability Services Queensland, found a lack of support for school leavers with intellectual disabilities.

"*Increasing Options* aims to provide a stepping stone for these jobseekers into the workforce. We will work with the young people and their families to seek work and training opportunities.

"It's a first for Ipswich Community Youth Services to be involved in a project of this kind, so we're all very excited."

The State Government's *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative has helped create more than 80 000 jobs across Queensland since 1998.