



Rachel Nolan MP

Member for Ipswich



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19 beat the odds to find work



Nineteen people who have faced multiple difficulties finding work will graduate from the Mental Health Association (QLD) Inc Work 'n' Place project alongside 18 other people in Ipswich today.

Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development Andrew Fraser and Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said that 11 people had already secured work or will continue on with further training thanks to \$225,500 received by the Association under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

"The project gives people the chance to increase their confidence, skills and employment opportunities to move forward with their lives," Mr Fraser said.

"A mother-of-two who could no longer endure the shift work associated with the hospitality industry has realised her dream of working for a youth and community-focussed organisation," Mr Fraser said.

"She has been offered part-time work with a south-side youth club and will also complete Certificate IV in Community Services while caring for her young ones."

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said that local community organisations had been an integral part of the project as each organisation gives the participant's up to three months of hands-on experience and support.

“Projects like this also give people the skills they need to participate more meaningfully in the workforce and find social and emotional well-being.”

Mental Health Association (QLD) Inc CEO Geoff Riddell said the statewide project delivered under the National Action Plan on Mental Health 2006 -2011 was developed to increase the ability of people with mental illness to participate in the community, employment, education and training.

“The graduates from this intake have landed jobs in administration, warehousing, as teacher’s aides, hospitality, warehousing and one as a dairy farm assistant,” Mr Riddell said.

Today’s graduation celebration will be held at Ipswich City Council in the Barry Jones Auditorium, 40 South Street, Ipswich at 10:00am.

During 2009/10 the Queensland Government will invest \$101 million in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to give an estimated 21,000 long-term unemployed and underemployed people job related assistance and skills training to maximise labour force participation and increase Queensland's prosperity.

Twelve months after receiving assistance 71 per cent of participants are in employment or further training.

The Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative is part of the State Government’s \$1 billion Queensland Skills Plan which aims to provide individuals and industry with the skills and workforce for the 21st Century.

For more information on the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative visit www.employment.qld.gov.au or call 1300 369 925.

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