



STUDENT Tyrone Walker, from the Edmund Rice Education, Flexible Learning Centre Network chats with Member for Townsville Mike Reynolds and centre coordinator Greg Yates

Photo: BRYAN LYNCH SDMM6261

## 'Place and train' model

# Jobs for teens

EARLY school leavers will have a better chance to gain employment with a new Get Set for Work project.

Funded by the State Government, 20 of Townsville's young school-leavers will be able to access support and information so they can pursue a career that suits them.

Participants can be assisted through one-on-one pre-vocational skills training, work experience, job search assistance and on-the-job support.

The Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative is providing \$100,000 to Break Thru People Solutions to run the Get Set for Work project.

Get Set for Work projects assist young people aged between 15 and 17 who have left school early or are at risk of leaving before they complete Year 12 to help them find jobs, start further training or return to school.

The project is based at the Townsville Flexible Learning Centre and will also ad-

dress the issues that can exclude young people from the workforce.

Member for Townsville, Mike Reynolds, said keeping young people engaged with the community through work or study improved their chances of avoiding long-term unemployment.

"Low self-confidence, poor motivation, limited life experience or literacy and numeracy problems can be addressed, but without that extra support that projects like this offer many young people can struggle to find or hold a good job," Mr Reynolds said.

"With unemployment at a record low of 3.5 per cent in Queensland we need to make sure that young people looking for their first job have the support they need to get into stable work so they can contribute to our strong economy."

Break Thru People Solutions chief executive officer, Ross Lewis, said the pro-

ject would use the 'place and train' model.

"This model, which works in partnership with participants to find suitable employment, then supports them with training such as how to get to work, how to perform their new tasks and how to relate to their co-workers - this ensures that they have the best opportunity to keep their job," Mr Lewis said.

"We also have contacts with groups like the Australian Brick and Blocklaying Foundation, which runs a boot camp that interested participants could join, as part of Construction Skills Queensland's push to attract young people to the industry.

"Our aim is to build a relationship with each participant which they can use to re-engage with the wider community and the workplace."