

Skilled in fun for the holidays

Job training with a difference

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A NUMBER of Skilling Queenslanders for Work participants have helped to make the school holidays a blast for Ipswich kids by running a number of fun events at the Tivoli Drive-in.

Donna Isaacs, from Glory City Church West, said each worker had designed their own holiday programs for the kids to enjoy.

"They are getting on the job training. Each event is like a micro-business, so they develop the business, market the business, fund the business and then run it on the day," she said.

Some of the activities on the day included a 'trip' to Japan, decorating pine cones and playing in a giant mud pit.

Glory City Church West has been part of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative for the past few

years, and helped hundreds of people increase their skill set and gain employment.

"There are growing Skilling Queenslanders for Work projects in Ipswich, but here at the drive-in, we run three Skilling Queenslanders for Work projects," Mrs Isaacs said.

"We employ on a full-time basis, over a 12 month period, 72 people.

"We are focused on what we can do for the community, what the need is in the community, and then tapping into that and then putting something together.

"Our events and construction programs have now been running for 12 months.

"While they are here, the participants find their passion and they then seek jobs in that area.

"We help by giving them references, so we can say yes they gave it their all.



TRIP TO JAPAN: Teah and Eva O'Brien with Skilling Queenslanders for Work participant Jayden Maguire at the school holiday events at the Tivoli Drive-in. PHOTOS: ASHLEIGH HOWARTH

"What happens at the end of the program is we place them in careers rather than jobs."

Mrs Isaacs described the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program as "vital".

"It is vital for people who have barriers to enter back into the workforce. Those barriers might be due to mental health or domestic violence," she said.

"Whatever the barrier is, we identify that and then we focus on trying to help them over the time they are here."



Skilling Queenslanders for work participant Stephen Shoard with Mia Ingglelew.