

BOOST FOR

KRudd gets down

WHAT WOULD YOU ASK PM?

DI PARIS, of Woombie: "I'd like to ask why you are considered employed if you work about one hour a year," she said. "How can that possibly be?"



CRAIG GRANT, of Caloundra and representative of Busy At Work, wanted to pose some tough questions about the mining tax. "With the mining tax, is he softening on it? Will he do a back flip and risk his credibility?"



GUY WILLIAMS, of Caloundra, had little to say to our country's elected leader. He had more pressing issues on his mind. "I wouldn't ask him anything. I just want to find a job," he said. "I don't think he's doing enough for jobs here".



PM winds through jobs expo

By OWEN JACQUES

WHEN Prime Minister Kevin Rudd arrived at the Centrelink Jobs Expo yesterday, he was a man determined to spruik about his government's economic muscle and how it has protected our region.

The PM was flanked by a media scrum as he wound his way through the tight maze of exhibitors and eager job-hunters.

He was accompanied on his amble by apprentices Tabettha Onley and Wallace Sloane who had been hired through the Federal Government's Apprentice Kickstart program.

Mr Rudd was also quick to remind us where he grew up and repeatedly referred to the Sunshine Coast as "home".

"It's nice to be home, actually," Mr Rudd said. "And guess what, it's warmer than Canberra."

The PM shook hands with stallholders, re-enforced by his earwigged security guards and Parliamentary Secretary for Employ-



GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT: PM Kevin Rudd is one of the crowd at the jobs expo.

ment Jason Clare, before proceedings took a surprise turn and he had a short chin-wag with country legend Troy Cassar-Daley.

While the two country boys caught up, Coast Mayor Bob Abbot did some catching up of his own, having learned about the PM's arrival an hour earlier and only just joining the fray.

"It's great to see the PM here," Mr Abbot said. "We'll be obviously into him for everything we can today, but it shows we're on the radar in Canberra."

"I'll give him a fair indication of what we're doing and growth will certainly be an issue."

At the press conference, the Labor leader defended his govern-

ment's stance on jobs in the region, emphasising the stimulus funds the government had funnelled into our economy.

"Number one, the total investment in stimulus in the Sunshine Coast would go into the hundreds of millions of dollars," he said.

"Secondly, specifically for the building industry ... we now are en-

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