



Speech by

**Hon. ANNA BLIGH**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

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Hansard 18 July 2000

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Disability Services Queensland**

**Hon. A. M. BLIGH** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services) (9.54 a.m.), by leave: I wish to table for the information of the House Queensland's first ever comprehensive strategic plan for the development of disability services in Queensland. I table a copy of this historic document, Disability Services Queensland Strategic Plan 2000-05, for the benefit of the House. This plan represents a new way forward for disability services in this State. It provides a road map for Disability Services Queensland to continue working collaboratively with people with a disability, their families, support networks, service providers, the community and all levels of Government to uphold the rights of people with a disability, to enhance their quality of life and to enable their inclusion in the everyday lives of their communities.

One of the key strategic directions identified within the plan is improving access to services. DSQ will work with people with a disability, their families and the broader community to improve access for all people with a disability to goods, services and facilities, especially for people who have been disadvantaged historically by their lack of access to services, including families caring for their relatives at home and people in private hostels, and increase the participation of people with a disability in the everyday lives of their community. The strategic plan has been developed in close consultation with the community since September last year and the feedback received has been instrumental in shaping the directions within the strategic plan. I take the opportunity this morning to thank all those present today who took part in some of those consultations.

The strategic plan builds on the significant achievements made by the Beattie Labor Government in disability services over the past two years, including record increases in funding; the establishment of Disability Services Queensland, the first ever Government agency dedicated to disability; the release of a whole-of-Government strategic framework for disability; support for hundreds of individuals, families and children; new and expanded services across the State; the creation of the Disability Council of Queensland; the first register of need; a new funding process; and the list goes on.

**A Government member** interjected.

**Ms BLIGH:** Yes, and the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal. In addition to the record amounts of increased funding over the past two years, we are making even further increases over the next two years. Together with the Commonwealth, disability funding in Queensland will increase by an additional \$18.1m this financial year and double to an extra \$36.3m in 2001-02. This will provide more individualised support packages for adults and families; a boost to post-school options; ongoing institutional reform opportunities; access to support for people in hostels; increased respite and family support services; more community infrastructure projects; and local area coordination programs. These initiatives are detailed in DSQ's first business plan, which will be released as part of the State Budget later today. The business plan, which I am very pleased to table today, gives effect to the strategic plan for Disability Services Queensland. I look forward to implementing the strategic plan as the Beattie Government continues to rebuild disability services in Queensland.

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