



Speech by

**Hon. Warren Pitt**

**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

Hansard Tuesday, 23 May 2006

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Disability Services**

**Hon. FW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors) (10.24 am): Queensland adults with an intellectual disability, who have complex support needs, and their families and carers will benefit from a Queensland government investment of \$33.5 million in specialist service provision over the next six years. The care of people in this group is very complex, demanding and sometimes expensive to ensure that they receive the level of care that they need and deserve.

Disability Services Queensland's Accommodation Support and Respite Services provides a specialist residential service tailored to the needs of adults with an intellectual disability who have severe and profound support needs. The service provides accommodation and support to 577 adults in a variety of residential settings. It operates eight centre based respite services which support more than 400 children and adults with an intellectual disability.

The accommodation support and respite services are delivered in a professional and accountable environment which safeguards the rights of people with a disability. The services offer an optimum level of independence and opportunity, reflecting individual support needs. The changes within the department's Accommodation Support and Respite Services are closely linked to the ongoing reform process across the disability sector.

Also, I have recently appointed retired Supreme Court judge Bill Carter QC to report on the options available for providing support and care for adults with an intellectual disability who exhibit severely challenging and threatening behaviour. Mr Carter will report on the range of legislative support that is currently available and which is needed to ensure that the safety of clients and the community is balanced and protected. People with this profile are not criminals. However, because of their behaviour they sometimes risk ending up in the criminal justice system if not cared for appropriately. Current systems do not necessarily provide the specific support and care required by the very small proportion of the population who act in this way.

Through significant budget increases each year since 1998, the implementation of the disability sector quality system and the introduction of new disability legislation, the state government is improving the quality of disability services and protecting the safety of people with a disability while they receive those services.

*Tabled paper:* Copy of ministerial statement by the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors titled *Specialist Disability Accommodation Support Service for Queensland*.