



Speech by

## Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Tuesday, 4 August 2009

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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Ageing Carers

**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.20 am): I am well aware of the concerns many ageing carers of children with a disability have about who is going to care for their loved one when they no longer can. Addressing these concerns is one my top priorities. The Bligh government is committed to assisting ageing carers of children with a disability. We recognise the crucial role that respite services play in strengthening the capacity of families and carers to continue caring for someone with a disability.

More than \$18 million in total has been provided through a joint initiative between the Bligh and Rudd governments. Together we are delivering greater access to respite and accommodation options through the \$10.5 million Disability Assistance Package initiative. Up to 13 organisations will provide about 80 people with a disability with greater accommodation options. Not only will these accommodation options give people with a disability a new home, they will also give their ageing parents peace of mind.

Recently, I was in the electorate of Capalaba with the local member, Michael Choi, to announce funding for Share Bayside Incorporated of \$800,000 and St Vincent de Paul of \$450,000. The \$1.2 million will provide flexible accommodation options for people with a disability.

Last month, the member for Toowoomba North, Kerry Shine, and I announced \$1 million funding to purchase the existing bed and breakfast property Anden. This property will provide 10 additional accommodation places. This property is ready for people to move in and will soon be home to 12 people with a disability.

Today, I am announcing that a further \$3.8 million has been pledged to pay 10 services to provide respite care to older carers in 17 locations right across Queensland. This equates to an estimated 828 new respite places. This is 164 more than the target number of 664 places set by the Commonwealth. In addition, a further \$5.5 million will provide well-earned respite for disability carers in 17 locations right across Queensland including places such as Townsville, Gladstone, Mackay and the Sunshine Coast. This will provide the carers of 828 people with a disability with a well-earned break. The respite provided can include in-home support, centre based respite and community based support and, in some locations, emergency respite.

The Bligh government is committed to supporting ageing carers of children with a disability through initiatives such as these announced today.