



Speech by

Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Wednesday, 5 August 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cerebral Palsy League

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.16 am): The Cerebral Palsy League has been providing support to people with cerebral palsy and their families in Queensland for more than 60 years. The league is a major disability service provider in Queensland and has a longstanding partnership with the Queensland government. In 2009, the Cerebral Palsy League will receive more than \$38 million in ongoing funding from the Bligh government to provide services to Queenslanders with a disability and their families.

Today, I will officially open the Cerebral Palsy League's new multi-million dollar purpose-built accommodation complex at Fig Tree Pocket. The opening is especially important as this week is National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Week. Cerebral Palsy Awareness Week is an opportunity to raise awareness of the most common physical disability in the country, affecting some 7,000 Queenslanders and 34,000 Australians. Cerebral Palsy is a permanent physical condition that affects movement. Its effects can be as mild as just a weakness in one hand ranging to an almost complete lack of movement.

The opening of the Fig Tree Pocket accommodation complex marks the beginning and the end of an era for the Cerebral Palsy League. The accommodation facility on the site at Fig Tree Pocket was previously an institution known as Sevenoaks and had been home to 21 adult residents for more than 50 years. Thanks to the generous fundraising support of Channel 7 over the years, various appeals and the community, Sevenoaks will be replaced with brand-new accommodation consisting of 12 individual houses and a community centre. Planning for this building project has taken 13 years and marks a significant shift as the residents move from institution style accommodation into their very own homes. The opening of the Fig Tree Pocket accommodation complex marks the beginning of a new lifestyle for the residents who will now live in their own homes with support to assist them to stay connected with the local Fig Tree Pocket community. The Bligh government will continue to invest \$1.9 million annually into maintaining this residential service. I congratulate the Cerebral Palsy League and wish all the residents all the very best in their brand-new accommodation.