



Speech by

Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Wednesday, 28 October 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Carers

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.15 am): Queensland's carers make an enormous contribution to the lives of thousands of Queenslanders. The Bligh government values the contribution of the state's 530,000 unpaid carers and we are committed to supporting them in their important work. That is why we provided sponsorship funding of \$25,000 to Carers Queensland to assist in the running of last week's Carers Week. Part of the celebration included National Carers Day in Brisbane and the Carer-Friendly Business Awards on 22 October.

Carers Week pays tribute to the valuable contribution of carers to individuals, families and communities throughout the state. As well as making a big difference to a person's wellbeing, carers make a significant social and economic contribution to the community.

Last week, I was pleased to announce that the Bligh-Rudd governments have provided an extra \$1.2 million in funding to assist Queensland carers in their caring role. That means an extra \$1.2 million a year to ensure that carers have access to support services and the information that they need to care for their loved ones. That extra funding will fund support forums, individual counselling services and information to assist carers.

Carers dedicate a lot of their time to improving the quality of the lives of our nation's elderly and people with disabilities. Caring for someone full-time is physically and emotionally demanding and from time to time carers need to be able to take a well-earned break. The services we are funding with this new money are all about meeting the needs of individual carers and the people they care for.

The Bligh government funds a number of important initiatives aimed at improving the lives of carers including \$1.9 million in funding to Carers Queensland for counselling, support and advocacy; \$30.5 million in 2008-09 for the provision of 885,000 hours of home based respite care services; and \$4.2 million in funding for respite for older parent carers, which funds 22 respite service providers in 25 locations across the state. The Bligh government is delivering for carers and we will continue to give them the support that they need.