



Speech by

Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Thursday, 12 November 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Home and Community Care

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.27 am): Last Thursday I had the pleasure of visiting the Balmoral Uniting Community Care Centre with the member for Bulimba. It was an opportunity to share morning tea with volunteers and meet with some of the people who benefit from the excellent care and services the centre provides. For more than three decades, the Balmoral Uniting Community Care Centre has served as a vital centre for the local senior community. Thanks to a new \$55,548 funding boost from the Queensland and Commonwealth governments the centre can now provide additional home support for up to 120 people.

Last week I also attended, along with the member for Woodridge, the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Islamic Women's Association in Brisbane. This association has so far received around \$900,000 from state and federal governments to support Queenslanders of all backgrounds to live independently in their homes. I am pleased to announce that there is even more good news for Queensland: an extra \$36 million to fund other organisations like these across the state which are helping people to live independently for longer.

Together with the Commonwealth, Queensland is investing \$429 million this year to fund the Home and Community Care Program. This program delivers affordable and accessible care to help meet the individual needs of older people and their carers. It helps people to live independently in their own homes for longer and avoid entering residential care prematurely. We want to ensure Queenslanders get the support they need to live rich and rewarding lives. That is why we will continue to invest in better care and support for Queenslanders who need help to keep living independently in their own homes.