



Speech by

Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Thursday, 11 February 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disability Services, Accommodation

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.26 am): The Bligh government is getting on with the job of delivering better services for Queenslanders with a disability. From Cairns to Mackay, through to Hervey Bay and the Sunshine Coast, we are creating a caring and inclusive Queensland. We are giving vulnerable Queenslanders and their families the care and support they need to live productive and rewarding lives.

When I visited Cairns in January, I announced \$250,000 in funding to move four Far North Queenslanders with a disability from Cairns Base Hospital into purpose-built accommodation in Gordonvale. This is a great outcome for those people and their families. It will not only ensure that they get the specialised care they need but also mean freeing up hospital beds.

In Cairns I also announced an extra \$203,000 to support Far North Queensland school leavers. These funds will benefit 16 local school leavers like Kylie Hoffman, who I met at Arc Disability Services in Cairns. A total of 290 Queensland school leavers will benefit from increased job opportunities, care and support under this \$4 million state-wide program, including Aaron Young, whom I met in Mackay last month.

The Minister for Community Services and Housing is not the only one who is committed to social housing. When I visited Hervey Bay in January, I announced \$4 million to fund purpose-built disability housing in the Bundaberg-Wide Bay region. It means accommodation for 28 people in purpose-built and modified buildings—people like Jozes Graca, who was overjoyed and over the moon to be moving into his new duplex in Hervey Bay.

It gave me great pleasure in January to open the newly refurbished SPIRAL day respite centre at Nambour with the member for Nicklin. The Bligh and Rudd governments contributed \$800,000 towards the refurbishment of the centre, which is a vital asset to the local community. It will mean better services for people with a disability, while giving local carers and families a well-earned break. Queenslanders with a disability and their families can count on the Bligh government to deliver the care and support they need, no matter where they live in Queensland.