



Speech by

Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Tuesday, 23 February 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disability Services

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (9.59 am): Thousands of Queensland parents dedicate their lives to caring for children with disabilities. They selflessly perform a labour of love without fanfare and out of the public gaze. Without their dedication and commitment, many Queenslanders with a disability would have a reduced quality of life. The Bligh government values the contribution of these ageing carers and we want to help them give their children the support they need. At the same time, we recognise there will come a time when they are no longer able to perform this caring role.

The good news is that we are tackling this dilemma head-on. While the opposition struggles to come up with a disability housing policy, we are investing in new purpose-built accommodation for Queenslanders with a disability right across this state. From Townsville to Toowoomba and from Mount Isa to Maryborough, we are getting on with the job of securing a better future for Queenslanders with a disability.

Queensland is leading the way when it comes to delivering more beds for people with a disability. This fact was highlighted in a *Four Corners* report which screened last week. The report showed that Queensland has delivered 19 out of the 40 new beds so far created across Australia with its \$18.3 million share of the Commonwealth funding. That is more than any other state has so far delivered and it is almost half of the national total. Queensland is well on track to deliver the 36 extra beds it is required to build by July 2012 under this agreement. I am pleased to inform the House that Queensland will not only deliver the 36 beds but also deliver a total of 100 new beds under this program.

We are also delivering better accommodation options for Queenslanders with a disability via our social housing program. In 2009 we helped 2,400 new families who have a person with a disability via the government managed long-term social housing policy. This means around 40 per cent of our new social housing coming on line will assist families who have a family member who has a disability. This is a great outcome for all Queenslanders. The Bligh government is getting on with the job of delivering better services for Queenslanders with a disability right across this state.