



Speech by

Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Thursday, 25 February 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disability and Aged Care Services, Funding

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.24 am): I am pleased to advise the House that hundreds of Queensland disability service and community care providers are eligible for a share of \$13.5 million in capital funding to upgrade their facilities. It will allow them to deliver enhanced services, which is great news for Queensland seniors and younger Queenslanders with a disability and their families.

The new funding will be of enormous benefit to Queensland's 147 Meals on Wheels organisations throughout Queensland. Meals on Wheels is a much loved community based initiative delivering around 2.5 million meals in Queensland each year. Meals on Wheels delivers an essential service to people with a disability, and Queenslanders value the tremendous work its volunteers do each and every day. They help people with the basic necessities of life and assist them to remain living independently in their own homes in their own communities. This funding will be of particular benefit to service providers who may need to upgrade their kitchen facilities to meet improved food safety standards. I encourage all members here to get in contact with their local Meals on Wheels service providers and encourage them to apply for this funding.

I am also pleased to inform the House of a \$920,000 funding boost to expand education and training services for carers right across Queensland. This will benefit organisations such as Carers Queensland and the Independent Living Centre Association. The opposition has no policies for seniors and Queenslanders with a disability, but the Bligh government is getting behind them to give them the very care and support that they need.