



Speech by

**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

Hansard Wednesday, 10 March 2010

---

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Respite Care**

**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.20 am): The Bligh government is doing more than ever to support Queenslanders who care for family members with a disability. Over the last decade, we have delivered an unprecedented funding boost for respite services across this state. During this period our support for non-government respite services has increased more than tenfold—from \$2.3 million in 2001 to \$28.4 million at the end of the last financial year. That is great news for hundreds of Queenslanders with a disability and their families. It is great news for the families that I met at the official opening of Ashgrove's new \$2 million respite centre in January. The member for Ashgrove and Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability was also present at the opening of this new state-of-the-art facility, which will benefit 45 families. The new Ashgrove Respite Centre will provide local people with a disability with up to 20 nights of respite care a year. It will give them the specialised care and support they need while their families get the chance to enjoy a well-earned break.

This is another example of the Bligh government delivering services to those who need them the most, and extra funding for respite services is an issue that I will continue to raise with the Treasurer in the lead-up to this year's budget. Caring for a family member with a disability is often a full-time job—one that can put enormous pressure on families and individuals. Families across Queensland are always telling me how much easier their lives would be if they could access just a couple of extra hours of respite care each week. Carers deserve a break to recharge their batteries and to do things for themselves that they often neglect because of their commitment to loved ones. I am talking about simple things like attending medical appointments or catching up with friends for a cup of tea, which most of us take for granted.

Carers play a crucial role in our community. Our investment in stronger respite services across the state helps hundreds of Queenslanders to enjoy a well-earned break from their role as carers. We recognise the important role respite care plays in keeping families together and strengthening their ability to care for their loved ones. Carers can always count on the support of this government.