



Speech by

Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Services, Non-Government Sector

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.12 am): Thousands of Queenslanders rely on state government funded disability services each year. As the state's population continues to grow, the number of Queenslanders with a disability will also increase. Late last year an Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report predicted that 2.3 million Australians would have a profound or severe disability by 2030. To meet the ever-increasing demand for disability services in the years ahead, the state government will need to work more closely than ever before with our non-government service providers. The good news is that we are delivering more funding than ever before to the non-government sector. In 2009-10 we are providing nearly \$490 million to our NGO sector right across Queensland. This is nearly half a billion dollars.

Tonight I will be attending a dinner at Parliament House with the CEOs of the G8 who represent Queensland's eight biggest disability service providers. With the support of the Bligh government, these organisations deliver essential front-line services to thousands of Queenslanders with a disability each year. The G8 includes the Endeavour Foundation, which we give approximately \$50 million in state funding each year and which assists approximately 3,000 Queenslanders with a disability right across the state; the Cerebral Palsy League; and Lifeline Community Care. Other NGOs included in the G8 are Centacare, FSG Australia, Multicap, Life Without Barriers and the Spinal Injuries Association of Queensland. This week the Spinal Injuries Association of Queensland celebrated its 50th anniversary. I would like to congratulate Mark Henley and his team at the Spinal Injuries Association of Queensland. They help more than 1,500 Queenslanders with a spinal injury right across the state. They are doing a remarkable job, and I think all members of the House should congratulate the association on the amazing work that it does.

The Bligh government recognises the great job these organisations are doing day in, day out. Unlike the opposition, we are planning for the future and working on a 10-year disability plan. I am confident that our plan will secure even stronger partnerships with the non-government sector in the years ahead. We will continue to help more and more Queenslanders with a disability each and every year.