



Speech by

Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Thursday, 5 August 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cerebral Palsy League

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.13 am): The Bligh government is committed to early intervention when it comes to helping children with a disability. We know that it is essential for families to access appropriate supports and services during their child's early years. The most common physical disability in children is cerebral palsy. It affects approximately three people out of every thousand.

This week is Cerebral Palsy Awareness Week, a week that aims to raise awareness and celebrate the achievements of people with cerebral palsy. As part of our early intervention strategy the state government provides the Cerebral Palsy League with more than \$35 million annually. It provides a wide range of essential services, including speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. It also provides technology and equipment, transport, accommodation, career support, in-home support and community access.

On Saturday I attended the Cerebral Palsy League's Picnic in the Park, along with the member for Brisbane Central, which marked the start of the awareness week. I was pleased to announce that the Bligh government will provide an extra \$418,000 in recurrent funding to help the Cerebral Palsy League operate its redeveloped Sevenoaks accommodation complex at Fig Tree Pocket. It follows the opening I attended last year of the Cerebral Palsy League's newly refurbished \$1.4 million centre for people with a disability in Toowoomba, which was attended by the member for Toowoomba North.

There is so much that we do not know about this condition. Today I will join the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Health and representatives from the Cerebral Palsy League to launch the first report into their register. The Bligh government allocates \$105,000 to the Cerebral Palsy League to host the register, which aims to provide an accurate account of the number of people in Queensland with cerebral palsy, their functional abilities and general geographical distribution. This information will be used as a database for service funders and providers to ensure that all available funding is being used in the most effective way.

One of the aims of the Bligh government's children's action plan is to link children with a disability and their families to evidence based practice to improve how we use research findings to inform the development and delivery of early intervention services for children and families. This government is committed to improving life for Queenslanders with a disability.