



Speech by

Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Wednesday, 18 August 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Disability Services, Support to Live at Home

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.10 am): Research from quality publications such as the journal of *Child: Care, Health and Development* suggests that the environment in which people live can play an important role in promoting self-determination and independence. People with a disability who continue to live in their own communities can have improved quality of life and reduced social isolation.

The Bligh government is committed to helping Queenslanders living with a disability retain their independence and remain active members of their community. For six years now we have been providing drop-in support services in the Brisbane area. We are providing over \$500,000 in funding each year. This can be for things that appear simple to us—making dinner, having a shower or getting ready for the next morning for a medical appointment. However, to people with a disability these tasks can seem overwhelming.

In Brisbane we have had outstanding success, allowing over 40 people the often minimal support they need to stay living in their own homes. Today I am pleased to announce that I am expanding this project state-wide, investing \$2.5 million to allow more than 140 people with a disability to remain living in their own homes. We will direct this funding into a number of regional and Brisbane based non-government service providers so they can deliver the essential support that is needed.

Where is this funding going? In Brisbane, \$100,000 is going to the electorate of Ashgrove. In Yeerongpilly, \$250,000 is going to the Cerebral Palsy League. In Central Queensland, \$219,000 is going to Rockhampton and there is \$50,000 for the Central Highlands and Western Queensland Family Support Association. In the south-west, \$100,000 is going to Focal Extended at Ipswich and in Toowoomba—where is the member for Toowoomba North?—\$250,000 is going to the Cerebral Palsy League. On the Gold Coast, \$350,000 is going to Accommodation Network Pty Ltd at Tweed Heads. On the Sunshine Coast—where is the member for Nicklin?

Mr Wellington: Right here!

Ms PALASZCZUK: On the Sunshine Coast, \$350,000 is going to Advanced Care Australia to help it.

Mr Wellington: Hear, hear!

Ms PALASZCZUK: In Mackay, MADEC will receive \$175,000, as will services in the member for Thuringowa's electorate, also worth \$175,000. Members in Cairns and Far North Queensland will see \$400,000 being channelled to the Far North Queensland Independent Living Support Association.

This is good news for the people of Queensland. It is great news because we believe in improving people's quality of life. We believe in ensuring that people with a disability get the support that they need to lead rich and rewarding lives, not just in South-East Queensland but right across the state. We believe in creating inclusive communities but, most importantly, we believe in looking past the disability and focusing on people's abilities.