



Speech by

Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Tuesday, 26 October 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Home and Community Care

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (10.16 am): The Bligh government is delivering more for older Queenslanders and those with a disability. We are committed to supporting people who want to remain living in their own homes. We understand that most older people and younger people with a disability wish to remain living in the community but some need support to maintain their independence and social participation. That is why today I am pleased to announce, in conjunction with federal Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, that almost \$51 million in funding for Home and Community Care services will be allocated.

The centrepiece of this announcement is the allocation of almost \$7 million for minor and major home modifications for people right across this state. Minor modifications include installing a hand-held shower, modifying steps or installing handrails. These may seem like small changes to many of us, but to those set to benefit these can be huge improvements to their quality of life. It also enables people to remain living in their own homes for longer. The funding for major modifications includes the installation of stair lifts, ramps or bathroom modifications. Almost 5,000 extra Queenslanders are now set to benefit from these modifications, many of whom are pensioners. This funding will assist residents right across Queensland, from Cairns to Caloundra, from Mount Isa to Mackay and from Logan to Longreach.

Along with the almost \$7 million for home modifications, key components of the new funding allocation also include \$10.9 million to increase support for people in their own homes in areas such as cleaning and bathing as well as support to access their community for respite; \$5.7 million in major capital to expand or modify buildings and facilities for centre based day care; \$2.1 million to provide domestic assistance, personal care, nursing and allied health; \$5.5 million for nursing and allied health care, including administering medication, wound dressings, occupational therapy and podiatry; and \$3.3 million for transport to assist people to do things like visit their local doctor, to do their shopping and to do their local banking.

This funding is part of the joint Commonwealth-state Home and Community Care Program. Almost 170,000 Queenslanders benefited from this funding last year. We are committed to ensuring that all Queenslanders remain independent, in their own homes and in their own communities for as long as possible. This significant allocation of funding today is evidence of that commitment. I urge all members to share this good news with members of their local community.