



Speech By  
**Hon. Curtis Pitt**


**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Social Benefit Bonds**

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.42 am): I wish to update the House on one of the Palaszczuk government's innovative policy initiatives regarding the design and delivery of community and social services. The House would be aware that in my first budget I announced the Social Benefit Bonds pilot program. I can announce that there has been strong market interest in the program being administered by Queensland Treasury.

The Social Benefit Bonds pilot program has been established as an innovative way to address often longstanding and complex social issues. They involve investors, the social sector and partner agencies collaborating to use private sector funding to establish new services that complement the extensive work that is already undertaken by the government and the social services sector.

Social Benefit Bonds will provide a commercial return to investors only if agreed positive social outcomes and financial value for the state are achieved. To establish Social Benefit Bonds, we allocated \$2 million to implement this cross-agency initiative. These funds are being used to access a range of expert skills and advice, particularly in the areas of data management, procurement and contracting.

The pilot scheme involves three areas of focus: tackling homelessness, minimising reoffending and addressing issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. A total of 23 submissions were received at the close of the expressions of interest process in May. That was followed by a request for proposals phase in August. Three proponents have now been short-listed to move to the joint development phase. Today, I can announce that the proponents selected to progress to the final stages of the process are Churches of Christ in the area of homelessness, Life Without Barriers in the field of reoffending, and UnitingCare Community to address Indigenous issues.

It is now proposed to move forward to a period of joint development with short-listed proponents to ensure that all elements of the transaction and service design are suitable for contracting. Churches of Christ has proposed a program to address homelessness using an approach based on individualised case management and interventions tailored to young people aged 15 to 25 leaving out-of-home care. Life Without Barriers proposes a program to reduce the risk of young people being held on remand. The proposed participants are young people aged 10 to 14. UnitingCare Community proposes to establish the New Parent Infant Network to increase the reunification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children currently in out-of-home care. The initiative is on track to contract Queensland's first pilot Social Benefit Bonds in the first half of 2017.

I would like to thank Queensland Treasury and other agencies and organisations that have been involved and in particular my cabinet colleagues and their agencies who have taken a keen interest in this innovative program to date. I would also like to congratulate the three short-listed proponents. Their willingness to participate in this process is to be commended.