

## Question on Notice

No. 1033

Asked on Thursday, 2 September 2004

**MS JARRATT** asked the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (**MR PITT**) -

### QUESTION:

With reference to the Unmet Needs Campaign Committee which is using data to illustrate unmet needs in Queensland — What are the concerns relating to the Australian Government's failure to match State and Territory funding increases?

### ANSWER:

Under the third Commonwealth-State/Territory Disability Agreement, Queensland will receive growth funds of \$12.9M over 2002-2007 from the Australian Government. The percentage of growth funds provided to Queensland is marginally less than the average growth funds provided to all States. This is despite the growth of Queensland's population and its high prevalence rate of people under the age of 65 years with a disability and a severe or profound core activity restriction. Queensland is second only to the Northern Territory in its population growth and is second only to Tasmania in terms of the prevalence rate of people under the age of 65 years with a disability and a severe or profound core activity restriction.

Assuming a consistent rate of indexation is applied across Australia, of all jurisdictions, Queensland has the greatest discrepancy between actual demand growth and funding increases provided by the Australian Government to Queensland to meet this growth.

To meet increasing demand for disability services, many States and Territories have contributed funding in addition to that agreed when the Commonwealth-State/Territory Disability Agreement was signed in June 2003. The Queensland Government had increased funding by \$182.2M over the five year period of the agreement from 2002-2007, including funds to improve services and support for children, young people and adults with a disability, as well as indexation, depreciation, capital grants and other adjustments. The Queensland Government, in the 2004-05 State Budget, further increased funding for disability services by an additional \$155M between 2004-05 and 2006-07.

However, despite the significant investment in the disability services sector in recent State budgets, there are still significant levels of unmet need being experienced by people with a disability, in areas such as emergency and crisis care, family support services and early intervention services. These will be continuing areas of pressure into the foreseeable future. In recognition of this, work is continuing between the Australian and State and Territory Governments to examine the most appropriate means of addressing increasing demand pressures.