

Question on Notice

No. 1040

Asked on 2 September 2004

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Hervey Bay which has benefited greatly from Disability Services Queensland's Local Area Coordination Program — Are there any plans to expand this service in Hervey Bay?

ANSWER:

I am pleased that the Local Area Coordination Program has greatly benefited the Hervey Bay electorate and that the support provided to people with disabilities and their families has been well received and is responsive to their needs.

The Local Area Coordination Program expanded in Hervey Bay during 2003-04, with the appointment of a second Local Area Coordinator position for the area. This position provides assistance to a further 50 people with disabilities and their families and will help them to access the support they need.

The Local Area Coordinators in Hervey Bay will have the capacity to address the ongoing needs of 100 people with disabilities and their families, and will also provide a point of contact for many more people who have a disability who may wish to access one-off support.

Disability Services Queensland will address the expansion of the program in Hervey Bay as the capacity of the existing Local Area Coordinators is utilised, indicating the need for a new staff member.

There are a number of expansions currently planned for the Local Area Coordination Program. In the 2004-05 budget, \$0.5M has been allocated, which equates to four new positions. Further funding of \$1M is available for 2005-06 which will see full coverage of remote and rural communities other than the larger urban centres.