

Question on Notice

No. 1080

Asked on Tuesday, 28 September 2004

Mr Fenlon MP, asked the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (**Mr Pitt**) -

QUESTION:

As he mentioned during the Estimates hearing that he intended to visit the Esther Centre and meet with the Historical Abuse Network, what were the outcomes of this meeting?

ANSWER:

On Tuesday 24 August 2004, the Director-General, Department of Communities and I met with approximately 50 former residents, members of their families and service providers at a morning tea function at the Esther Centre.

It was a privilege to meet informally with members of the Historical Abuse Network and to speak with them about their childhood experiences and the needs of former residents in general.

During the function, I took the opportunity to reaffirm the Queensland Government's commitment to addressing the needs of former residents through the provision of funding to specialist services, such as the Esther Centre. I also acknowledged the vital role played by the Historical Abuse Network in advocating to raise awareness, by both the Government and the broader community, about the needs of victims of historical abuse.

It is apparent that services such as the Esther Centre and the Historical Abuse Network play an essential role in assisting the healing process for victims of historical abuse and supporting former residents to improve their quality of life. I welcome the opportunity to continue engagement with members of the former resident community and I have advised members of the Historical Abuse Network of my intention to make an extended visit to the Esther Centre in early 2005 to meet with former residents.

My Director-General has received positive feedback from representatives of the Historical Abuse Network, that my visit to the Esther Centre was well received by its members.