

Question on Notice

No. 1097

Asked on Tuesday, 28 September 2004

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the announcement by the Endeavour Foundation to close the Endeavour Farm and the Endeavour Nursery in Toowoomba and as this will cause thirty-two clients of all ages to lose meaningful employment, training and daily worthwhile activity and up to fifteen staff will lose employment -

What action will he and his department take to save these essential services for the clients, their families and the Darling Downs community?

ANSWER:

I acknowledge that the Endeavour Foundation farm and plant nursery in Toowoomba provide valuable employment skills and opportunities for persons with a disability in the Toowoomba area.

Both of these facilities operate as business enterprises under the provisions of the current Commonwealth-State/Territories Disability Agreement. As such, they are subject to Commonwealth Government regulatory provisions. In addition, the Commonwealth Government has the responsibility for providing funding assistance through the portfolio of the Minister for Family and Community Services.

The Member for Toowoomba South first approached me on this issue by letter dated 13 August 2004. At that time, I advised him that this is a Commonwealth Government issue and that I had referred his concerns to the Commonwealth Government Minister. I am unaware of any response to date.

The future of this facility and the welfare of its staff and clients rest solely with the Commonwealth Government.

Queensland Government funding to Endeavour has more than doubled in the past four years and will reach \$40M in the current financial year. This includes viability funding of \$4.7M which was approved at the end of September 2004. This funding is provided to assist with those areas of operation for which the State has some responsibility, such as accommodation services and Adult Training and Support Services.