

Question on Notice
No. 511
Asked on Wednesday, 19 May 2003

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

QUESTION:

What activities will Disability Services Queensland sponsor during the upcoming Disability Awareness Week?

ANSWER:

I welcome the timely interest shown by the honourable Member for Fitzroy in this important week, which is known as Disability Action Week. It will run from 18 to 24 July 2004.

Disability Services Queensland offers community organisations the opportunity to apply for funding through its \$200,000 Building Inclusive Community grants program to support local or statewide initiatives.

The grants are designed to encourage local communities to play a greater role in the lives of people with a disability, particularly during Disability Action Week and on International Day of People with a Disability in December.

The program has been well received by the community and I am pleased to say that this government intends to continue with the program to encourage the inclusion of people with disabilities into community activities.

Many of the activities that will be held across the State during Disability Action Week are events that have been sponsored by the department through this program.

The goal is to create a greater awareness and understanding of the needs, experiences and achievements of people with a disability, and to bring attention to improving access to community activities and interactions.

A snapshot of some of the activities shows a diverse range of events being held right across Queensland. For example:

- In the Far North, Indigenous Queenslanders will be encouraged to share their stories through the launch of a State Library of Queensland website under the 'Listen Up' project for community groups;
- on the Gold Coast, the Cerebral Palsy League will hold a community garden action day involving local community groups, Energex, TAFE and people with a Disability.
- in Brisbane, Salubrious Productions will hold performances in the Queen Street and Brunswick Street Malls and performers with a disability will feature in the 'Move over Beethoven' cabaret at Newmarket; and

Disability Services Queensland is the major supporting agency for the excellent work that is undertaken by the Disability Action Week State Planning Committee. The department provides approximately \$50,000 to promote the Week, conduct an Awards program and provide support for the Committee's family fun day that will launch the week at Southbank on 18 July.

Communities across Queensland will join together during this important week. I encourage all members to seek opportunities to celebrate the achievements and ambitions of people with a disability in their communities during this week.