

## Question on Notice

No. 583

Asked on Thursday, 20 May 2004

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

### QUESTION:

With reference to the annual Sharing the Road Conferences for Disability support workers –

Will the conference be held again this year and can he provide details as to date, venue and conference topics?

### ANSWER:

The Sharing the Road Conference is an annual conference for disability support workers that was first held in Brisbane in 1997. Since 2000, it has also been held annually in North Queensland, where the venue is alternated between Townsville and Cairns.

I am pleased to announce that the Sharing the Road conference for disability support workers will be held this year in Brisbane and Cairns.

In Brisbane, the conference will be held at the Nathan campus of Griffith University from July 19 until July 21. In Cairns, it will be held at the Cairns Conference Centre from August 11 until August 12.

The theme for the conference this year is 'The Fire Within - Exploring Commune-ity' with topics at each venue reflective of local concerns and practice.

In Brisbane, keynote speakers include Mr Glen Sheppard, a young man with Down Syndrome and Autism; Ms Helen Glover, a Researcher of consumer participation in psychiatric disability service delivery; Ms Jennifer Thompson, an Indigenous Counsellor; Ms Donna Rhall of Sydney's L'Arche organisation; Mr and Mrs Rikki and Julie Chaplin, a young couple who are members of Brisbane's Blind community, and Ms Beverley Funnell from the Office of the Queensland Public Advocate.

Topics for discussion include personal stories of support by people with disabilities and their support workers, reports of best practice within the sector and professional development for support workers.

The North Queensland conference keynote speakers include Queensland Public Advocate, Mr Ian Boardman and Ms Ellen Holland, former Director of St John's Community Care Integrated Disability Support Service. The program in Cairns is different from Brisbane and is reflective of local needs.

Topics for discussion include discussions of service delivery models, concepts of community from a disability perspective, personal discussions of living with disability and discussions of best practice within the sector.