

**Question on Notice**  
**Number: 587**  
**Asked on Thursday 20 May 2004**

**MRS L LAVARCH** asked the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (**MR Pitt**) –

QUESTION:

What programs conducted by his department benefit seniors residing in the Kurwongba Electorate?

ANSWER:

The Department of Communities, through the Seniors Interests Unit, takes a lead role across government on ageing and older people's issues.

The department also funds a range of services that support older people through the non-government sector that service the Kurwongbah electorate:

- The Seniors Enquiry Line is a Queensland-wide information and referral service, telephone 1300 135 500
- The Elder Abuse Prevention Unit is a service that promotes the rights of older people to live free from abuse. The Unit operates a confidential telephone line (telephone 1300 651 192) and
- Older People's Projects across Queensland work in their local areas to reduce social isolation and encourage the increased participation of older people in the community. The seniors of Kurwongbah could easily access the Older People's Project in Redcliffe.

A number of resources, which are published by the Department of Communities and available from the Seniors Enquiry Line, at no cost, may be useful to your constituents. These resources include:

- *Myth and Reality*, a publication that challenges myths that ageing equals frailty and dependence;
- Seniors and the Law Brochures designed to provide information on legal matters relevant to older people and
- *Important Information for Queensland Seniors*, a brochure printed in nine different languages containing information on a wide variety of government services.

The Department of Communities also administers the Seniors Card and sends a Seniors Card Business Discount Directory to each Seniors Card and Seniors Business Discount Cardholder in the Kurwongbah Electorate. There are approximately 2,933 Seniors Cardholders and 290 Seniors Business Discount Cardholders in this electorate.

In August 2004, Seniors in the Kurwongbah electorate will receive their discount directory.

Seniors Card holders are eligible for State Government concessions and business discounts. Seniors Card holders and Seniors Business Discount Cardholders can also save money by ringing the Senior Shopper business discount service on 1300 366 265.