

Question on Notice
No. 926
Asked on 31 August 2004

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the recently released Carer Recognition Policy—
Will he advise of the outcomes from the release of this policy?

ANSWER:

The release of the *Queensland Government Carer Recognition Policy* (the Policy) in October 2003 was the culmination of months of work across Government to develop a policy to improve the lives of the thousands of carers around Queensland.

Carers play a significant part in the lives of individuals, families and the Queensland community. Carers include those who care for the frail aged; people living with long-term medical conditions; people with a mental illness; people with a disability; and people receiving palliative care. Carers can be adults caring for other adults, parents caring for ill or disabled children or young carers under 18 years caring for or involved in the care of a parent, sibling, relative or friend.

The Policy commits the Queensland Government to developing and delivering State Government policies and services, that acknowledge carers and recognise and respect them as individuals and partners in the provision of care. Queensland Government departments and agencies now have a framework to identify and recognise the important role of unpaid carers.

Since the release of the Policy much work has been done to ensure its speedy and efficient implementation. This process is about action, and implementation is relevant to all State Government departments and agencies. Disability Services Queensland is working with the Carer Recognition Interdepartmental Committee and community stakeholders to develop an action plan to implement the Policy.

I also established a Carer Recognition Advisory Group to advise on the content of the action plan and its relevance to carers. Membership of the advisory group recognises the diversity of carers across the community and consists of nominees from the following nine organisations:

- Council on the Ageing Queensland Inc;
- Association of Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill (ARAFMI);
- Carers Queensland;
- Parent to Parent Association Queensland;
- Burringilly Day Respite (Indigenous representation);
- Stroke Association of Queensland;
- Alzheimer's Association Queensland;
- Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland Ltd; and
- Disability Council of Queensland (regional representation).

The action plan to fully implement the Policy, which will include an evaluation and reporting framework, is expected to be released in mid-2005. The Queensland Government will continue to listen to carers as the issues are taken forward. The foundations that are now being laid will lead to improved design and delivery of relevant policies, programs and services — to support carers now, and in the future.