

Question on Notice
No. 931
Asked on Tuesday, 31 August 2004

Mr Lawlor MP asked the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (**Mr Pitt**) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the 2004-05 State Budget which provides \$290.6 million for Queensland communities and as pages 1-3 and 1-4 of the Ministerial Portfolio Statements outline key priorities of his department -

Will he provide further detail about the key initiatives that will be funded?

ANSWER:

The 2004-05 State Budget provides \$290.6 million to support the needs of Queensland Communities. A particular focus has been placed on the needs of children, youth and seniors. Some of the key initiatives funded in 2004-05 include:

- An increased \$10 million for "*Queensland Families: Future Directions*" for prevention and early intervention services.
- More than \$1 million has been provided to an Indigenous Support Unit and a Child Safety Director that will implement further recommendations of the Crime and Misconduct Commission Report *Protecting Children: an Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Foster Care*.
- In recognition of the importance of high quality child care to Queensland families, a further \$1 million has been provided to strengthen the licensing and monitoring of child care centres.
- A further nine youth justice services will be established to take the total number of services to fourteen at a cost of \$5.5 million in capital funding and \$3.2 million in operational costs.
- Youth Justice conferencing will be expanded with the injection of \$2 million in 2004-05 to employ additional youth justice conferencing staff to allow the number of youth justice conferencing to be increased across the State.
- A Strategic Framework for Ageing will be developed to co-ordinate all government initiatives addressing the needs of older Queenslanders.
- Smart Service Queensland will be expanded to include services such as business name renewal and registration of encumbered vehicles.