

Question on Notice

Number. 301

Asked on Thursday, 10 March 2005

Mr Terry Sullivan MP asked the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors **Mr Pitt** -

With reference to Socio-economic studies in recent years which have shown that Stafford is an area of high need for people suffering economic and social disadvantage-

Does the Department of Communities have any new plans to address the needs of areas such as Stafford, which require co-ordination of services to families in need?

ANSWER:

The Department of Communities is developing a needs based planning and resource allocation framework. This framework will ensure that decisions about funding allocations are evidence based and targeted to those most in need. Further, the Department has been compiling regional profiles that include statistical data, current service system information and the index of relative socio-economic disadvantage on a Statistical Local Area basis.

This information will then form the basis for future decisions as funding becomes available. Officers from the Department of Communities are in regular contact with members of the Stafford and District Group and are aware of the significant needs of this area.

In the Stafford/Everton Park area, the Department of Communities currently funds the Picabeen Community Association and the Young Parents Program. In addition, seven new Youth Support Coordinator positions in Education Queensland's Geebung/Stafford District are attached to either Picabeen Community Association or Jabiru Community Youth and Children's Services. Jabiru is located at Bracken Ridge. These agencies are all represented on the Stafford and District Group.