

Question on Notice

No. 1319

Asked on Tuesday 31 October 2006

MR FENLON asked the Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport (MR ANDREW FRASER) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the recently launched “Eat Well Be Active Community Partnerships Grants Program”—

Will he elaborate on the benefits of the program for Queensland citizens?

ANSWER:

The ‘*Eat Well Be Active Community Partnerships Grants Program*’ (the Program) is one of a range of initiatives totalling \$21 million that the Premier announced at the Obesity Summit on 3 and 4 May this year to address the growing prevalence of obesity among Queenslanders.

The Premier and I officially launched the Program on 17 October 2006 at Belmont State School.

The Program will provide \$10 million in funding over three years to support local partnerships that develop and deliver healthy lifestyle programs. Obesity is now the single biggest health issue confronting the western world.

The Program is a practical initiative implemented to help Queenslanders combat obesity and reduce the risk of chronic health problems such as heart disease, diabetes and certain cancers.

The Government is committed to helping Queenslanders beat the obesity epidemic but it is not a fight we can win alone. It will require a concerted community effort involving families, schools, health professionals, sports groups, urban planners, food producers, retailers, advertisers, employers and the media, working in partnership with Government.

The Program will assist Queensland communities to deliver their own programs to combat obesity. We need to ensure that children and adults are able to eat better and get active wherever they live, work and play.

Initiatives that will be eligible for funding under this Program include, but are not limited to, projects that:

- build classroom teachers’ ongoing skills, knowledge and confidence to deliver programs that address physical activity and nutrition;
- improve local supply of healthy foods, especially quality fresh fruit and vegetables; and
- encourage people to replace motor vehicle trips with cycling and/or walking.

Approved partnership applications could receive grants of up to \$50,000. Schools and Indigenous community organisations can receive up to 75% of the project cost, along with approved applicants in regional, rural or remote areas. Other eligible partnerships will be able to apply for up to 50% of their project's cost.

The Program will build upon many other initiatives the Beattie Government has put in place, including the:

- *Go for 2 and 5 fruit and vegetable* campaign;
- *Eat Well Be Active* Healthy Kids for Life action plan;
- Get Active Queensland Children and Young People strategy;
- Smart Choices – Healthy Food and Drinks Supply Strategy for Queensland Schools;
- Safe and Healthy Schools initiative; and
- TravelSmart initiatives.

There are no magic bullets, beating obesity will require a multi-faceted approach involving every part of the community and every aspect of our lives. This Program recognises that the people best placed to identify local problems and deliver local solutions are the local communities themselves.