

Question on Notice

No. 1533

Asked on Thursday, 30 November 2006

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

What is the Government doing to strengthen non-government organisations?

ANSWER:

The Strengthening Non-Government Organisations Project is an important strategy which has a budget of \$26 million over four years. Its aim is to strengthen the capacity of non-government organisations across Queensland. Key initiatives in the project seek to provide standard management and administrative skills for these services.

Key initiatives include:

- Shared and Collaborative Arrangements: This assists non-government organisations to provide integrated services to clients in a more efficient and effective way.
- Workforce development: This initiative works to address workforce shortages and seeks to attract and develop the workforce.
- A website was launched in December 2006 which provides non-government organisations ongoing day-to-day support.
- The Community Bookkeeper: Provides a streamlined accounting system for non-government organisations. This includes access to free training, online support and a help desk. Six non-government organisations of the Waterford electorate have benefited from funding received under the Community Bookkeeper initiative.

The Queensland Government is also committed to the Strengthening Indigenous Non-Government Organisations strategy, which has been established to contribute to the development and implementation of broader Strengthening Non-Government Organisations initiatives to ensure that they meet the needs of Indigenous service providers and identify and develop further strategies to support organisational capacity building in organisations managed by Indigenous people.

The Department of Communities is committed to supporting non-government organisations and acknowledges the critical role they perform in delivering vital community services. I am very pleased with the initiatives rolled out under the strategy and to be strengthening non-government organisations.