

**Question on Notice  
No. 1535  
Asked on 30 November 2006**

MR CHRIS BOMBOLAS asked the Minister for Child Safety (MS BOYLE)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to her desire to have more men work in the Department of Child Safety—

- (1) How will she achieve this?
- (2) Will she provide more detail on the 15 scholarships being offered to people aspiring to work in child protection?

**ANSWER:**

- (1) I thank the Member for his question and for his interest in the area of Child Safety. Current research suggests that attracting men to work in child protection will not be an easy task, particularly considering that men are not undertaking study in preferred qualifications such as social work and psychology, in the same numbers as women.

The department will continue to work in partnership with university and education providers to explore why men who currently undertake social work and subsequently work in child protection are attracted to these roles and do stay.

These results will guide the department's development of additional tools to attract and retain men in child protection roles. Such tools may include targeted scholarships, cadetships and internship programs.

It is also important that we attract those who either already have the skills or could easily acquire them to the role of Child Safety Officer (CSO). Part of that process involves myself as Minister and my Department getting out and about and letting people know what a rewarding job being a CSO is. Our CSOs are community heroes protecting 1000s of vulnerable children every day of the week and it is important that we raise the profile of what is such a vital role.

There are many men in roles such as Police and Corrective Services Officers who with a short bridging course could easily transition into the role of a CSO and it is people with these complementary skills that I am particularly keen to attract to the Department.

- (2) The Graduate/Post Graduate Certificates being undertaken are of approximately three months' duration. A two-tier education allowance is payable as follows:
  - those living in rural and remote areas will receive an education allowance factoring in accommodation and air travel of \$470 per person per fortnight from 17 January 2007 for six pay periods (a total of \$2,820 per person) - (Scholarship A); and
  - those living 'locally' will receive an education allowance factoring in a smaller amount for local travel costs incurred of \$220 per person per fortnight from 17 January 2006 for six pay periods (a total of \$1,320 per person) - (Scholarship B).

For 2007 ten scholarships have been offered to those living in rural and remote areas and five scholarships to those living in South-East Queensland.