

## Question on Notice

No. 1546

Asked on Thursday, 30 November 2006

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

What steps are being taken to support and strengthen non-government organisations in Queensland?

### ANSWER:

The Strengthening Non-Government Organisations strategy commenced in 2005-06, and has a budget of \$26 million over four years to develop the capacity and capability of the community and disability non-government sectors through practical initiatives that support agencies in standard management and administrative activities.

A number of initiatives rolled out under the strategy include:

- Shared and Collaborative Arrangements, which is assisting organisations to provide more integrated services to clients and achieve efficiencies associated with economies of scale.
- Workforce Development, which is responding to workforce shortage issues by assisting the sectors attract, develop and retain a suitably skilled workforce.
- An Online Resources website, which was launched on 8 December this year, was developed to provide access to tools and resources to support the day-to-day operations of all Queensland non-government organisations.
- The Community Bookkeeper initiative, which ran in 2005-06, involved the implementation of a new, more streamlined accounting system for non-government organisations. Additionally, all funded non-government organisations had access to free training, and a help desk and online support was also provided.

In relation to non-government organisations that provide disability-specific services, in the 2006-07 State Budget the Queensland Government allocated an additional \$10 million to improve those organisations' service delivery to clients. Combined with the \$20 million previously provided, this increase brings funding to assist disability-specific non-government organisations to \$30 million from 2006-07.

The initiative focuses on developing contemporary business and administrative practices and improving the effectiveness of operational service delivery.

The initiative is made up of four ongoing elements:

1. developing the planning skills of non-government organisations;
2. establishing new or expanded services where there are identified gaps in service delivery;
3. developing the workforce planning and development capacity of the disability sector; and
4. establishing the capacity for non-government providers to acquire and/or replace assets to ensure quality service provision.

The significant funding provided by the Queensland Government will help non-government organisations to deliver higher quality and more accountable services to Queenslanders with a disability and their families and carers.