

**Question on Notice
No. 288
Asked on 7 March 2006**

MR MALONE asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

With reference to the Queensland Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme—

- (1) In the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 (reported separately), how many Gold Coast residents have made application for assistance under the medical aids subsidy scheme?
- (2) For the years listed above, how long has each applicant waited for assistance (reported separately)?
- (3) What was the assistance/equipment provided to each applicant (reported separately)?
- (4) What was the amount of subsidy provided to each applicant (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

(1)

Year	Clients Receiving MASS assistance
2002-2003	1,554
2003-2004	1,781
2004-2005	1,989

(2)

Equipment Types	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Continence	12 months	0	0
Oxygen	0	0	0
Orthoses Medical Grade Footwear	8 months	0	0
Mobility Aids	12 months	0	0
Daily Living Aids	12 months	0	0
Communication Aids	8 months	0	0
Repairs to Mobility or Daily Living Aids	0	0	0

As at 30 June 2003 the average waiting time for assistance was 12 months for continence, mobility and daily living aids, eight months for orthoses and communication aids and nil wait for oxygen.

With additional Government funding for the scheme, waiting lists were eliminated by 31 May 2004. There is currently no waiting list for assistance from the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme.

- (3) The number of clients that received assistance was as follows:

Equipment Types	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Continence	689	818	907
Oxygen	293	271	319
Orthoses Medical Grade Footwear	34	67	50
Mobility Aids	220	242	309
Daily Living Aids	70	112	120
Communication Aids	11	12	14
Repairs to Mobility or Daily Living Aids	237	259	270
Total clients receiving equipment from MASS	1,554	1,781	1,989

- (4) The main subsidies available through the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme are:

- up to two continence pads per day for adults and four pads per day for children (average cost of \$367 per client per annum);
- full cost of an oxygen concentrator or a maximum of four large oxygen cylinders per month (average cost of \$861 per client per annum);
- \$5,100 for a power driven and \$1,200 for a manual wheelchair plus a range of subsidies towards clinically necessary accessories and modifications;
- a range of subsidies are provided for daily living aids, eg \$2,000 towards pressure reduction mattresses and hoists and \$1,200 for shower chairs;
- \$3,000 is paid for electronic communication aids and \$1,000 for an electrolarynx; and
- subsidies for medical grade footwear range from \$225 for prefabricated to \$629 for custom made items.