

## **Question on Notice**

**Number. 400**

**Asked on Tuesday, 28 March 2006**

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

What are the benefits of regional community forums?

**ANSWER:**

Ministerial Regional Community Forums are a key engagement initiative at which Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and appointed regional leaders, known as Forum members share information and discuss issues and ideas significant to the region.

The Forums provide an avenue for these parties to work collaboratively to resolve local issues. Resolution may involve enhancements to government programs and policies to achieve better outcomes for Queenslanders.

The Government has responded to issues raised at forums in a number of ways. These include funding a new service, changing the way existing services are provided and changing a policy or program. Solutions often involve the Queensland Government working with other parties such as local government, Commonwealth agencies and community organisations.

It is important to note that whilst the Forum itself is a significant engagement event, it is supported year-round with planning, research and the development of solutions involving Forum members and their communities, Ministerial and departmental staff, Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and Regional Queensland Council members as well as other key stakeholders.

You will be aware that I chair the Regional Queensland Council, which comprises ten (10) Members of Parliament representing the ten (10) Department of Communities' regions.

Regional Queensland Council members work closely with Forum members, Ministers and departmental staff to identify issues and develop collaborative solutions that can be addressed through the Forum process. Their regional knowledge and hands-on approach to working with Forum stakeholders enhances the Forum as a community consultation and engagement mechanism.

I am committed to ensuring critical feedback continues to inform and enhance the Forum process to ensure that all Queenslanders in regional, remote and urban areas have the opportunity and support to engage with their Government.