

**Question on Notice
No. 499
Asked on 30 March 2006**

MRS SCOTT asked the Minister for Small Business, Information Technology Policy and Multicultural Affairs (MR CUMMINS) —

QUESTION:

- (1) What was the symposium on ageing and cultural diversity in Queensland?
- (2) What were the outcomes of the symposium?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and for her strong support for multicultural affairs within her electorate.

The Symposium on Ageing and Cultural Diversity in Queensland, hosted by the Australasian Centre on Ageing at the University of Queensland, was the third phase of a broader project. This phase was funded with \$9950 from my department.

The first phase, funded with \$10,000 from the Department of Communities, was a review of the existing literature on the subject of ageing and cultural diversity in Queensland, throughout Australia and in other countries.

The second consultation phase involved interviews with people working in the multicultural sector or members of ethnic community groups. Those in remote areas were able to submit group responses to the consultation questions.

The first two phases formed the basis for a discussion paper sent to workers in the aged care and multicultural sectors, and to representatives of government agencies and community groups, inviting them to participate in the symposium.

The symposium involved group discussions on eight key areas: Active Ageing, Community Participation, Family or Informal Care, Financial Independence, Health and Aged Care, Housing, Social Isolation and Transport.

The aim of the project as a whole was to learn more about the needs of ageing Queenslanders from culturally diverse backgrounds by:

- identifying key issues around ageing and cultural diversity in Queensland;
- exploring innovative strategies to address these issues; and
- establishing a future research agenda around the subject.

A report is currently being prepared on the outcomes of the symposium. It is expected that this report will inform the development of programs and

services that are responsive to the needs of Queenslanders from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.