

**Question on Notice
No. 618
Asked on Friday 21 April 2006**

MISS SIMPSON asked the Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women (MS DESLEY BOYLE)–

QUESTION:

With reference to her announcement on 12 April 2006 of plans to appoint 10 new regional coordinators to the Office of Women–

- (1) Where will each of the new positions be based?
- (2) What is the salary classification level of the new positions?
- (3) What is the total cost of these positions (recurrent and capital costs reported separately) and from which appropriation has this funding been allocated?

ANSWER:

The announcement to appoint 10 new regional coordinators to help promote the needs of women and ensure the delivery of suitable and equitable services throughout the State has been embraced enthusiastically by regional women's services, key partners and staff of the Office for Women.

Commencing 2 May, women in Far North Queensland, North Queensland, the Darling Downs/South West Queensland and the Sunshine Coast will have access to regional coordinators based in Cairns, Townsville, Toowoomba and Maroochydore. The boundaries for each regional coordinator's outreach area are aligned with the regional boundaries used by the Department of Communities to maximise opportunities to leverage and work closely with other government and non-government agencies.

The remaining six regional coordinators will be covering the following regions: Mackay/Whitsunday, Gold Coast, Wide Bay-Burnett, Fitzroy/Central West Queensland, Moreton and Greater Brisbane. The exact regional coordinators' office locations within each of these regions is still being considered and announcements are due to be made in the next few weeks.

The new coordinators will have a much stronger role and scope in partnering with other government agencies and community organisations to influence local and State-wide policies, services and programs to ensure that they relate to women at the local level. The positions will therefore be remunerated at the AO6 level.

To fund this initiative the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation will reprioritise and internally reallocate funds. The new program has been costed at \$1.3 million for salaries and supplies and services. There are no additional capital costs anticipated.

I am pleased we will soon have a new team working on behalf of the women of Queensland offering greater benefit to a greater number of women throughout the State. The new program clearly sends the message that advancing the needs of women in Queensland is a priority for the State Government.