

**Question on Notice
No. 810
Asked on 24 May 2006**

MISS ROBERTS asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to Question on Notice No. 216 asked of him on 1 March 2006 —

Will he provide specific details of how and where the Queensland Injecting Health Network spent \$31,200 within the Gympie Electorate?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Injecting Health Network Ltd (QuIHN) provides telephone information, advice and face to face education sessions on HIV, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health to injecting drug users in the Gympie region.

QuIHN has conducted information sessions in Gympie with a number of organisations, including Making A Difference (MAD), Cooloola Youth Services and the Gympie Sexual Health Interagency Group, offering to provide the Mix Up and Brunch at the Beach projects.

The Mix Up Project provides peer education training courses for current injecting drug users focusing on reducing the risk of blood borne virus transmission, encouraging early testing and treatment for blood borne viruses, developing harm reduction knowledge, skills and behaviours and encouraging trained peers to disseminate information and model harm reduction strategies within peer networks. Each participant attends a three hour session once a week for four weeks. The Brunch at the Beach Project is another mechanism to provide opportunistic interventions to injecting drug users through the provision of a lunch and activities.

QuIHN is currently working with the Cooloola Youth Service in Gympie to arrange the Mix Up Project for their clients.

Other organisations contacted have not accepted QuIHN's offer to provide services to their clients.

Due to a lack of requests from Gympie injecting drug users, QuIHN discontinued outreach needle and syringe services in December 2005. However, the Queensland Health Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Unit provide needle and syringe services to the Gympie and Cooloola areas.

QuIHN also conducts mail outs in the Gympie region of QuIHN brochures and magazines.