

Question on Notice

NO. 872

Asked on Thursday, 25 May 2006

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

How does his department assist people in overcoming problem gambling and what support is available?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government remains committed to providing services for people affected by problem gambling.

The Department of Communities received \$3,386,847 for 2005-06 from Queensland Treasury under a Memorandum of Understanding to administer funding to the Gambling Help service system. Under this Memorandum of Understanding, the department allocates:

- \$3,048,726 to 13 services in Brisbane, Caboolture, Cairns, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Logan, Mackay, Mt Isa, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville and Wide Bay. The services provide face-to-face and telephone counselling, information, referral and support services for people affected by problem gambling. They also provide a range of community education and targeted training to local community and health services in order to improve the support provided to clients of those services.
- \$275,500 to a statewide Gambling Help Line which provides telephone counselling, information and referral services 24 hours a day seven days a week.
- \$62,621 to support the Gambling Help Network. The network provides opportunities for collaboration between the Gambling Help services to ensure continuous improvement in the range of support and information services available to clients with gambling related problems.

In 2005-06, the Department of Communities completed a review of the performance of the departmentally funded Gambling Help services. The recommendations from the review will inform an evaluation commissioned by Queensland Treasury into the broader gambling help services system currently underway.

In April 2006, the Department of Communities extended the Memorandum of Understanding with Queensland Treasury until 30 June 2007 pending the outcomes and recommendations from Queensland Treasury's evaluation.