

## Question on Notice

No. 124

Asked on Thursday, 8 February 2007

**MR DEMPSEY MP** asked the Minister for Communities, Minister for Disability Services Queensland, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Seniors and Youth (**MR PITT**) –

With reference to Home and Community Care (HACC) support in Bundaberg—

- (1) What are the waiting times for successful applicants for HACC support in Bundaberg?
- (2) What funding levels are required to completely meet demand for HACC in Bundaberg and what are the current funding levels?

### ANSWER:

- (1) The Home and Community Care (HACC) Program is a joint Commonwealth, state and territory government initiative which operates under the *Home and Community Care Act 1985* and the *Home and Community Care Amending Agreement 1999*.

The primary purpose of the HACC Program is to purchase support and maintenance services to assist older, frail and younger people with moderate, severe or profound disabilities, and their carers. These services are designed to support HACC eligible clients to remain in their own homes for as long as possible and avoid premature and/or inappropriate admission to residential care. The program subsidises rather than necessarily meeting the full cost of these services.

The Queensland HACC Program in 2006-07 was allocated a total of recurrent funding of around \$309 million.

The HACC Program purchases 18 different service types delivered by approximately 800 service providers across Queensland. These services include activities such as personal care, domestic assistance, nursing care, allied health, centre based day care, respite care and home modifications.

In order to manage fluctuating levels of demand, each of these service types may, at various times, operate with waiting lists in different localities. These waiting lists will change over time and as the level of demand relative to availability varies.

Therefore, the HACC program does not maintain a central statewide waiting list. Instead, each contracted service provider is required to screen individual clients and determine their need and priority for service relative to other eligible clients requiring a service in that location.

- (2) The allocation of HACC funds across Queensland is calculated on the estimated HACC-eligible population to ensure relative equity of access to each service type regardless of where clients live. This funding formula is subject to agreement by the state and Commonwealth governments, and aims to ensure an equitable level of access to services for all Queenslanders.

The HACC State Plan has been submitted to the Commonwealth Government for joint approval. The plan will result in approximately an additional \$25 million dollars in 2006-07 for additional HACC services across Queensland. This will include additional funds of approximately \$361,000 to be allocated to the Bundaberg community to provide additional HACC services.

\$5,248,060 has been allocated in 2006-07 to service providers in the Bundaberg State Electorate. Thirteen service providers are physically located in the Bundaberg State Electorate. It should be noted however that services physically located in the Bundaberg State Electorate may deliver services outside of this area. Conversely, services that are not physically located in the Bundaberg State Electorate may deliver services into this area.

Decisions about additional funds are made on the basis of improving access to the full range of HACC services across the state. In this way, the provision of additional funds has a positive impact on waiting lists in all locations.