

**Question on Notice
No. 139
Asked on 20 February 2007**

MR GLEN ELMES MP asked the Minister for Child Safety (MS BOYLE)-

QUESTION:

“With regard to the \$3m in ‘backlog money’ allocated to fund about 25 extra Child Safety Officers, five Team Leaders, three Senior Practitioners and six Administration staff who are to be sent to the areas and offices that need them most –

Will she advise if any of these specialist staff have been assigned to the Noosa Department of Child Safety; if not, when will permanent staff be assigned to cover this area?”

ANSWER:

On 4 February 2007, the Premier and Minister for Trade and I announced that the Department of Child Safety would receive new funding of an extra \$5 million to address the backlog of child abuse cases being investigated by the department. Of this total, \$3 million will be made available in 2006-2007 for a major assault on backlog cases and an additional \$2 million will be provided the following financial year to continue the work of recordkeeping officers.

This funding will provide additional resources to areas which need them most. I am pleased to report that the Brisbane North and Sunshine Coast Zone, including the Gympie Child Safety Service Centre, which provides child protection services to Noosa, was not identified as requiring the assistance of this new funding. I congratulate the local Noosa community for the low level of child abuse and neglect in their area.