

Question on Notice

No. 177

Asked on Wednesday, 21 February 2007

MS DARLING 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 his department's support of the annual YMCA Youth Parliament – Will he provide details of the types of activities made possible with this support?

ANSWER:

I am pleased to provide this advice regarding support provided by the Queensland Government to the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament.

The Queensland Government has a long standing commitment to support the activities of the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament and has provided support since the inception of the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament in 1996.

Support to the Queensland Youth Parliament contributes to a host of activities that the Queensland Government undertakes to facilitate opportunities for young people to participate in government and community decision-making.

The Queensland Youth Parliament program is a forum that enables young people to gather and debate local and statewide policy and legislation and advocate for change on youth issues, using a Queensland parliamentary model. It is supported by members of parliament, local government and parliamentary staff.

The YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament program aims to educate, empower and unite young people through:

- educating young people about the Queensland parliamentary system;
- equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and strategies to enable them to impact on community and government decision making; and
- supporting young people to use their skills and knowledge effectively.

The YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament also aims to engage and support a diverse range of rural and regional young people, including those from disadvantaged and marginalised backgrounds.

In recognition of this, the Queensland Government has provided extra funds over the past two years to ensure that these groups of young people have the opportunity to participate in the program.