

Question on Notice

No. 201

Asked on Wednesday, 21 February 2007

MR LINGARD 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 announcement in December 2006 that the Department of Communities staff will receive specialised disaster recovery training –

1. When will this training commence?
2. How long will it take staff to complete the required training?
3. What specific training will staff undertake?
4. How much funding has been allocated to this training strategy?

ANSWER:

The disaster recovery training strategy commenced in May 2006 with the development of a training resource DVD "A Call to Action – Community Recovery after a Disaster".

The DVD was followed up with a targeted training strategy.

To date, 312 staff across all regions in the state, including central office, have been trained.

The training is designed in modules and can be delivered in a variety of formats from a half day workshop to a full two day program that includes the implementation of a recovery services exercise.

Staff have completed modules in:

- An Introduction to Community Recovery, outlining the legislative and contextual environment of community recovery work.
- Personal Support Services, outlining how to respond to people affected by disasters and the principles of psychological first aid.
- Financial Assistance, outlining the type of financial assistance available to people post-disaster and how to assist with applications for these measures.

Disaster recovery exercises have also been implemented in all departmental regions to develop staff understanding of the type of disasters that may impact their location and to enable them to practice the skills they have learned.

To date the total funding allocated, including the development of the DVD, is \$93,000.