

Question on Notice

No. 226

Asked on Thursday, 22 February 2007

Ms Darling asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland Mr Shine -

QUESTION:

How will the new Sandgate Court House improve access to justice for people in the Sandgate Electorate, when it is completed later this year?

ANSWER:

The new Sandgate Courthouse will provide a first-class facility to serve the needs of a modern justice system and the local community.

The new courthouse will include a Magistrates courtroom, a mediation room, registry, public waiting area, interview rooms, conference rooms, accommodation for court support groups and facilities for child witnesses and victims of family violence.

The new courthouse will have separate waiting rooms for male and female victims of family violence where they can be supported in a secure environment away from the public waiting area. These rooms also have private access to the courtroom.

The new building will also feature the latest technology such as closed circuit television to enable child witnesses and sexual assault victims to give evidence from a room separate to the courtroom. This will spare victims the emotional trauma of having to face offenders while giving evidence.

Security will be enhanced for court users with a prisoner transfer link built to connect the courthouse and the adjacent police station.

Access for people with disabilities, including automatic doors, will be provided in accordance with the requirements of the latest building codes.

The old building will be demolished and replaced by a car park for use by people attending the courthouse.