

**Question on Notice  
No. 383  
Asked on 8 March 2007**

**MR MOORHEAD** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM, FAIR TRADING, WINE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND WOMEN (MRS KEECH)—

What is the State Government doing to support older women in Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his strong advocacy on behalf of women in the Waterford electorate.

The Beattie Government's strong commitment to supporting older women in Queensland is embodied in the *Women in the Smart State Directions Statement 2003-08* (WISSDS).

**Safe and Active Women Strategy**

The Strategy provides a package of tools, including an information paper and an older women's webpage, promoting the current services available to empower women to feel safe in their homes and more active in their communities.

The Older Women Webpage went live on 9 March 2007, providing access to aid older women's economic and social participation in the community. Topics covered include housing, safety, retirement and financial security, reducing social isolation, supporting caring, and accessible transport.

**Smart Women Smart State Seminars**

The Office for Women regularly conducts seminar series for women on topical issues. In 2005-06 a seminar series was held on the subject, 'Women and Superannuation'. Approximately 900 women participated in the series. Information presented at the seminars was based on content released in the Office for Women's, *Focus on Women information paper* and included investment, co-contributions, salary sacrifice, spouse rebates and splitting superannuation.

**Falls Prevention**

The Home and Community Care (HACC) Falls Prevention Best Practice Resource Kit contains a range of promotional materials including posters and bookmarks highlighting strategies for preventing falls, which are amongst the most serious causes of injuries among older women. In-service training is also being provided to HACC workers on falls risk management for older people.

**Reducing the social isolation of older people in Queensland**

This project aims to identify leading practice models to reduce social isolation of older people and provides the opportunity for agencies to work together to pool resources for an improved outcome for older people.

**Older People's Action program**

The Beattie Government funds 20 services in various locations across the State which aim to increase older people's social participation in the community, reduce their fear of crime and increase their sense of safety and security. The target group for the program is those people 50 years and over at risk of social isolation.

**Seniors Taskforce**

The Seniors Taskforce addresses crime issues related to people 65 years and older in Queensland. The taskforce has developed a popular booklet, *Confident, Safe and Secure Living in Queensland*, a practical guide for seniors on safety and security at home, when out and about, and securing homes when on holidays. The taskforce has formed three subcommittees to research and propose actions relating to the investigation of crime, the fear of crime and the prevention of crime.

**Seniors Legal and Support Service**

From mid 2007, the Beattie Government will pilot a specialist Seniors Legal and Support Service for people at risk of and/or experiencing elder abuse or financial exploitation. The services will work to prevent elder abuse and financial exploitation by assisting vulnerable seniors to identify and act to protect their rights. Services will be established in Brisbane, Hervey Bay, Cairns, Townsville and Toowoomba.

**Elder Abuse Prevention Unit and Seniors Advocacy and Information Legal Service**

The Beattie Government Elder Abuse Prevention Unit operates a State-wide telephone helpline to provide information, support and referrals for seniors at risk of and/or experiencing elder abuse, their families and friends and service providers who are seeking information. The Unit also provides ongoing sector development and community education to increase awareness about elder abuse and prevent its occurrence. The Seniors Advocacy Information and Legal Service provides a social worker and a lawyer to help older people resolve the legal and social consequences of domestic violence.

These examples demonstrate how the Queensland Government's initiatives are benefiting older women by supporting them to better health outcomes, increased safety, and increasing their participation in our communities.