

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 386**  
**Asked on Thursday, 8 March 2007**

**MRS ATTWOOD** asked the Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport (MR FRASER) –

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the growing problem of childhood obesity—

Will he outline the Government's strategies to ensure that all children in Queensland have the opportunity to access and participate in a wide range of sporting activities?

**ANSWER:**

There has been much said in recent years about the decline in participation of young people in sport and active recreation and the health and social issues associated with inactivity.

The Queensland Government is doing a great deal to address the issues of inactivity and obesity in children and young people.

For example, the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation has taken the lead in developing a number of key initiatives announced at the Obesity Summit in May last year by introducing:

- a \$10M Community Partnerships Grants Program over three years in partnership with Queensland Health and the Department of Education, Training and the Arts to encourage innovative projects to increase physical activity and improve nutrition in local communities. I recently approved funding of more than \$2.7M for 115 projects across Queensland to encourage communities to lead a more active and healthy lifestyle;
- the Young Athlete Assistance Program, providing young Queensland athletes under the age of 18 with financial support to attend State sporting events or State school championships;
- a new approach to achieve greater community use of school sport and recreation facilities including collaborative funding arrangements with local governments and the Department of Education, Training and the Arts; and
- an \$8.4M social marketing campaign to support the active lifestyle message targeting the home, school, community and workplace. The three-year campaign launched by the Premier on 6 February 2007, incorporates a media campaign; 'self-help' information packs now being delivered to every home and a new website with practical information, self-assessment and interactive tools to assist Queenslanders to improve nutrition, increase physical activity and achieve and maintain healthy weight.

These projects announced last year are not the end of our efforts. The Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation has recently committed over \$9M for more projects under the auspices of the Eat Well Be Active Taskforce (formerly the Obesity Taskforce) to make it even easier to be active. These initiatives include a whole-of-Government physical activity strategy to better coordinate Government actions in this area; further collaboration with Indigenous communities to develop and promote sport and recreation programs to meet their local needs; and improving partnerships with local governments to help them provide services for sport and active recreation.

These new initiatives will build on the success of existing Government programs within our communities including:

- the Get Active Queensland Children and Young People Strategy which provides a range of resources for parents, carers, teachers and clubs on how to incorporate physical activity into many aspects of daily life for children;
- the Eat Well be Active – Healthy Kids for Life Action Plan, which includes the new Healthy Kids Queensland: Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey. This will provide for the first time, comprehensive State-wide data, on the physical activity patterns, Body Mass Index and nutrition habits of school aged children in Queensland. It is expected the results of the survey will be released in June 2007;
- the introduction of new programs at a number of the Department's Active Recreation Centres; and
- the investment of over \$50M this year in grants for more than 1,200 community based sport and active recreation projects, the majority of which provide improved facilities and participation opportunities for children and young people.