

**Question on Notice
No. 498
Asked on 15 March 2007**

MR SEENEY asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (MR BEATTIE) -

QUESTION:

With reference to any reserve, contingency or emergency funding, or funding used for one-off grants, expended by his department/s at the discretion of the minister or chief executive officer—

- (1) Will he provide for 2005-06 and 2006-07 to date, details of all items of expenditure from such fund/s and or one-off grants including (a) reason for expenditure, (b) total amount, (c) the date each item of expenditure was approved and (d) the person/s responsible for approval of expenditure?
- (2) What is the uncommitted balance of these funds at present?
- (3) Why are the reserve or contingency funding or one-off grants used rather than approved grant funds?

ANSWER:

The contingency fund provides the capacity and flexibility for the Premier of the day to respond to emergent needs and events.

As Head of Government, I am approached in that capacity to facilitate a variety of initiatives of economic, social, regional and environmental importance to Queensland.

The nature and type of projects undertaken is highly influenced by the public agenda. Hence, flexibility, together with the ability to rapidly respond and act on new issues as they emerge is imperative.

My ability to respond effectively to emerging issues and opportunities is dependent on immediate access to appropriate levels of resources. Adequate financial resources are therefore essential if these demands are to be met on a timely basis, particularly those which emanate from unforeseen events or those which require expeditious decisions and actions.

The contingency fund is also available to provide whole of Government contributions to charitable organisations and disaster appeals and to provide assistance to local authorities, deserving causes and community groups.

The attached table (Attachment A) lists expenditure approved from the contingency fund in the 2006-07 financial years as at 28 February 2007. Please note information on the contingency fund expenditure for 2005-06 can be found in the tabled response to a previous Question on Notice: no.533 asked by Bob Quinn on April 20 2006.

The Premier of the day having access to a contingency fund is not new. By way of comparison, former Premier Borbidge had a funding allocation in his department's contingency reserve totalling \$14.984 million in the 1997-98 financial year. Total expenditure at 30 June 1998 as detailed in Attachment B was \$10.7 million. This is in comparison to contingency expenditure totalling \$8.34 million in 2005-06.

2006-07 CONTINGENCY FUND – AS AT 28TH FEBRUARY 2007

2006 National Country Music Muster - Amamoor Creek State Forest Park	149,300
Kids GP Program - Australian Medical Association (Queensland)	300,000
Queensland Police Service Television Special	22,727
Women in Harmony Multicultural Choir - Toowoomba	5,000
2006 Australian Festival of Chamber Music - Townsville	20,000
Social Research Centre Conference - University of Queensland	9,091
2006 Tartan Day	10,000
Regimental Ball - 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment return from Iraq	10,000
History of Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland and Multiculturalism in Queensland	15,000
2006 Surf Life Saving Rescue Appeal	50,000
Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band	500
2006 Underprivileged Children's Circus Extravaganza - Abused Child Trust	2,455
Step-UP Foundation - Toowoomba	1,000
2006 World Festival of Magic - Golden Valley Keperra Lions Club	1,591
2006 National History Challenge	700
2006 Little Poss Appeal - Epilepsy Queensland Inc	10,000
2006 National Servicemen's Association State Conference	5,000
Civics and Citizenship Education Program - Returned Services League	45,455
Hopevale Aboriginal Council	10,000
St Paul's Cathedral Restoration - Rockhampton	50,000
2006 Smart Women Smart State Awards	6,000
2006 Beach to the Bush - Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise Central	15,905
Australia-Japan Year of Exchange	12,600
2006 Mission Beach Aquatic Festival	10,000
2006 Queensland Blue Light Association corporate membership	909
2006 Returned Services League Poppy Appeal	25,000
2006 Children's Christmas Magic Extravaganza - Childhood Cancer	1,280
Wildlife Warriors	10,000
2006 National Heart Foundation Doorknock Appeal	50,000
2006 Premier's Seniors Christmas Concerts - Brisbane and Townsville	30,000
2006 Variety Spectacular - SIDS and Kids	500
Carols in the City - City Tabernacle Baptist Church	60,000
2006 Underprivileged Children's Christmas Circus Spectacular - Mater Foundation	2,045
Queensland Remembers Program - ANZAC Day Commemorative Committee	20,000
2006 Christmas Donation - Smith Family	25,000
Amputees and Families Support Group	200
Queensland Paralympic Council - preparation for Beijing 2008	88,500
2006 Christmas Donation - Salvation Army	25,000
2006 Christmas Donation - St Vincent de Paul	25,000
2006 Christmas Donation - Lifeline	25,000
Year of the Surf Lifesaver	50,000
Drover's Construction Project - Memorial Shed in Camooweal	72,727
2007 St Patrick's Day Parade	25,000
Brisbane Institute Sponsorship	50,000

Council for the Australian Federation Secretariat	207,928
2006 Regional Arts Australia National Conference - Mackay	30,000
The Royal Humane Society of Australasia Incorporated Donation	4,000
Pacific Film & Television - production incentive - Movie Australia	500,000
2007 Underprivileged Children's Circus Extravaganza - Lions Club of Brisbane MacGregor	1,636
TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2006-07 as at 28 February 2007 \$ 3,258,866	