

Question on Notice
No. 544
Asked on 17 April 2007

MS DARLING ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM, FAIR TRADING, WINE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND WOMEN (MRS KEECH)—

How will the amendments to the *Associations Incorporation Act* assist my local incorporated community groups and what support is being provided to assist associations to understand the changes?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Sandgate for her question about the amendments to the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*, and note there are approximately 150 associations in her electorate of Sandgate which stand to benefit from these changes.

Amendments to the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* will assist local incorporated community groups in two important ways:

- the requirement for all associations to take out public liability insurance has been removed. Only those associations which own or lease land, or which hold land on trust under the *Land Act 1994*, will be required to take out public liability insurance. As a safeguard, other associations will be required to investigate the need to take out public liability insurance and then report their decision to all members and inform other parties that might be affected. I anticipate many associations which undertake activities with little or no risk will benefit from this amendment; and
- the present 'one size fits all' reporting and auditing requirements will be changed to make these requirements more appropriate to an association's actual financial circumstances. Associations with assets or revenue less than \$100,000, will be relieved of the burden to obtain costly full audited reports. Instead these associations, depending on their level of assets and income, need only lodge a statement signed by an auditor or a statement signed by the association's president or treasurer.

Other amendments will have the potential to reduce disputes between members of an association. For example, members will now be able to inspect the minutes of general meetings and the association's financial documents.

My Department will be writing to all incorporated associations advising them of the changes to the Act and the date from which the changes will take effect. The Office of Fair Trading website will provide up-to-date information on the major changes, including fact sheets, and the Smart Service Queensland call centre will be able to answer individual queries.