

Question on Notice

No. 625

Asked on 18 April 2007

MR WEIGHTMAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL)—

QUESTION:

Will he inform the people of the Cleveland Electorate, more importantly the young workers of that electorate, what assistance they can expect from the Government with regard to navigating the myriad of issues that have now been imposed on them as a result of the Federal Work Choices legislation?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government continues to assist Queensland workers and employers in understanding their circumstances under the Howard Government's unfair Work Choices regime.

The Fair Go Queensland Advisory Service (Fair Go Hotline) commenced on 5 December 2005. The Fair Go Hotline is a telephone service to assist Queenslanders who have suffered any unfairness in the workplace because of the Work Choices legislation, or who are seeking assistance with the complexities of the legislation. The contact number for the Fair Go Hotline is 1300 737 841 and is available for the cost of a local call. I commend the service to the member's constituents in Cleveland and all Queenslanders, particularly the young and other vulnerable workers, for information, advice and referrals to workers and employers affected by Work Choices. The Fair Go Hotline and Wageline have assisted thousands of Queenslanders affected by Work Choices. In this regard, since 27 March 2006 to 30 April 2007, 16,861 clients have been assisted in sorting out the complexities which Work Choices has created.

The Queensland Government also provides ongoing funding of \$653,000 to two community based organisations, the Young Workers Advisory Service (YWAS Ph 1800 232 000) and the Queensland Working Women's Service (QWWS Ph 1800 621 458). These services provide information, advice, support and advocacy to young people (under 25) and women respectively about employment and industrial relations issues.