

Question on Notice

No. 684

Asked on Tuesday, 22 May 2007

MR HAYWARD MP asked the Minister for Communities, Minister for Disability Services Queensland, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Seniors and Youth (**MR PITT**)—

Will he advise if funding has been provided for the Caboolture area under the Homelessness Early Intervention Services program and if so, (a) who has the funding been provided to, (b) when will the service commence and (c) what will the service provide?

ANSWER:

Homelessness is more than being 'houseless'. It relates to broader issues of safety, security, health, and support. To be homeless is to lack the stability of accommodation and the social and family networks of support which form the basis of most people's lives.

Under the government's *Responding to Homelessness* initiative, a range of innovative new services have been funded by the Department of Communities, including a statewide telephone information and referral service, additional crisis accommodation and support for homeless people with complex needs and homeless families, as well as early intervention services for people who are at risk of homelessness.

As part of this initiative, funding has been allocated for an early intervention service in the Sunshine Coast Region to assist people at risk of becoming homeless to maintain or improve their living situation.

In this context, the Queensland Government through the Department of Communities, has provided funding of \$367 000 per annum to Lions Emergency Accommodation Centre Inc to provide a homelessness early intervention service.

This service will deliver early intervention services to individuals and families in the local government areas of Maroochy, Caloundra and Caboolture. The service will employ three support workers and one coordinator and will operate out of the three local community/neighbourhood centres: Caloundra Community Centre, Maroochydhore Neighbourhood Centre and the Caboolture Neighbourhood Centre.

Community centres are well renowned for their work in delivering a raft of much needed services to their respective communities. The location of early intervention support workers in these centres will ensure that the service is accessible and responsive to the needs of vulnerable individuals and families in these areas.

From August 2007, individuals and families will be able to access a range of advice and support from the service, which may include:

- assistance to sustain housing and obtain housing as necessary;
- assistance with child specific issues and referral to appropriate services;
- support to develop living and other social skills;
- assistance with budgeting and referral to financial counselling;
- parenting support;
- relationship support;
- general counselling support and links to specific counselling options; and
- linking in to other community social supports.