

## Question on Notice

No. 685

Asked on Tuesday, 22 May 2007

**MS PALASZCZUK 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 outline the progress of the Referral for Active Intervention in the Inala/Goodna region and advise if there have been any reductions in the number of child protection orders as a result of this initiative?

### ANSWER:

The Referral for Active Intervention initiative in the Inala/Goodna region was first established in September 2006. It is designed to provide intensive support services to families with young children, aged 0-8 years, who have had involvement in the statutory child protection system.

The objective of Referral for Active Intervention is to:

- improve outcomes for vulnerable children and their families by supporting the development of a comprehensive prevention and early intervention service system;
- reduce the number of (re) notifications and minimise progression through the statutory child protection system;
- reduce the number of statutory child protection investigations and assessments in Queensland and thereby increase the capacity of the Department of Child Safety to respond immediately to those children identified at highest risk; and
- reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the statutory child protection system.

Action Network Teams have been established to improve and develop the service networks. These teams are comprised of a core group of government agencies such as Queensland Health, the Department of Child Safety, the Department of Education, Disability Services Queensland, the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships within the Department of Communities, and the Department of Housing.

The Referral for Active Intervention model provides case management and intensive family support. To date, there have been 83 referrals to the Inala/Goodna Referral for Active Intervention Initiative, 59 of these referrals have case plans and 34 are currently active.

The service and the Child Safety Service Centres work closely together and meet regularly to discuss any issues in relation to the risk of (re) notification and types of suitable referrals. Approximately 25 percent of referrals are Indigenous and these families are being engaged and supported by two Indigenous workers who are familiar with the local community.

It is too early to know if there have been any reductions in the number of child protection orders from the referrals taken by the Inala/Goodna Referral for Active Intervention.