

Question on Notice

No. 977

Asked on Friday, 8 June 2007

MS STONE 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 PIT**T)–

Will he outline the State Government's response to the report titled *Challenging Behaviour and Disability – A Targeted Response*?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government's response to the Hon W.J. Carter's report *Challenging Behaviour and Disability – A Targeted Response* is publicly available on Disability Services Queensland web-site www.disability.qld.gov.au .

The Government supports the findings and recommendations of Mr Carter's report which calls for legislative reform and a new model of service delivery targeted towards adults with an intellectual/cognitive disability who exhibit severely challenging behaviour. The delivery of this targeted service response is designed to lead to increased protection of the rights and liberties for this most vulnerable group of people and provide them with a higher quality of life. Another outcome will be a workforce with expert knowledge and skills in providing assessment, care and support to adults with severely challenging behaviours.

The service delivery approach will provide a contemporary approach and therapeutic response through utilisation of an integrated, multi-disciplinary practice model. This approach will also provide better protection for the community, carers and family members caring for this cohort.

The cohort comprises approximately 300 adults with intellectual/cognitive disability who exhibit severely challenging behaviour. To ensure the safety of not only the general community but the members of the cohort themselves, use of restrictive practices may be required to manage their behaviours. The targeted response comprises a number of interdependent elements all of which are critical to the improved outcomes for this cohort.

The response requires:

- Provision of a legislative framework to provide safeguards for the use of restrictive practices for adults who are subject to these practices and staff using restrictive practices.
- Development of a Positive Behaviour Support System implemented by highly skilled specialist staff to deliver multi-disciplinary assessment and positive behaviour support plans to support the legislative framework.
- Establishment of a Centre for Best Practice to lead the positive behaviour support system. The Centre will have a central role in researching, developing, supporting and training staff in contemporary best practice.
- Provision of purpose built accommodation with direct support to ensure the successful implementation of positive behaviour support to bring about behaviour change which will allow greater community integration for individuals.

The Government will seek to commence the legislation as soon as possible in 2008.

Disability Services Queensland has established interim policy guidelines for the administrative approval of restrictive practices with Disability Services Queensland-provided services and has offered similar support to Disability Services Queensland-funded services providing disability support services to adults with intellectual/cognitive disability who exhibit challenging behaviours.

Implementation of the various elements of the reform will commence from 2007-08 and build over a four year period. Immediate priority will be on providing resources to provide assessment and positive behaviour support plans for priority members of this target group. The numbers of professional staff will expand over time to allow services to expand.

Development of the Centre for Best Practice will begin from 2007 to provide the practice framework. The capital works program will also begin in 2007 and build over four years and continue with a rolling program to improve accommodation options for adults with challenging behaviour.