

Question on Notice

No. 1023

Asked on 6 June 2008

LIZ CUNNINGHAM MP asked the Minister for Communities, Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Seniors and Youth (**MS NELSON-CARR**)–

- With reference to Lifestyle packages for residents with disabilities in the Gladstone Electorate –
 1. How many packages were allocated for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08?
 2. How many are proposed for 2008-09?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government is committed to increasing services to people with a disability. This commitment is demonstrated through the record 2008-09 budget of \$1.235 billion.

Disability Services Queensland (DSQ) provides a range of programs that aim to improve or maintain the lifestyle of people with a disability. The Queensland Government's vision is a society that values people with a disability, upholds their rights and supports their equitable participation in everyday life.

To achieve this vision, DSQ provides a range of programs to support people with a disability to maintain their current living arrangements, access their communities, as well as providing supports and services to assist families to remain in their caring roles.

In 2005-06, 139 people accessed a DSQ service in the Gladstone electorate; in 2006-07, 172 people accessed a DSQ service. The data for 2007-08 is currently being finalised, however preliminary records for the first three quarters of the year indicate 157 people accessed a DSQ service in the Gladstone electorate. It is anticipated that the full year figure for service users in the Gladstone electorate for 2007-08 will exceed the 2006-07 count.

The services accessed include accommodation support, community access, community support or respite.

With reference to Adult Lifestyle Support Programs, these assist adults with a disability to maintain their living arrangements and participate in their community. Funds provided through the Adult Lifestyle Support Program can be used by adults with a disability in a variety of ways.

- Funding is allocated on a prioritisation basis to ensure funding is allocated to those people in the most urgent need.
- Through the 2005-06 funding round, 1 person residing in the Gladstone electorate received recurrent Adult Lifestyle Support Program funding.
- Through the 2006-07 funding round, 3 people residing in the Gladstone electorate received recurrent Adult Lifestyle Support Program funding.
- The outcomes from the 2007-08 funding round are currently being finalised.
- The 2008-09 funding round has yet to commence.

This year's record disability budget demonstrates the Bligh Government's commitment to supporting Queenslanders with a disability and their families.