

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1032**

**Asked on Friday 6 June 2008**

**MS STONE 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**)—

Will she advise how the Queensland Government is assisting people with a disability, their carers and families?

### **ANSWER:**

The Bligh Government has provided Disability Services Queensland with a total operational budget of \$1.235 billion for 2008-09. This represents an increase of \$152.8 million or 14 per cent more than 2007-08 Budget.

Included in this amount is \$825.1 million for disability services, \$386.3 million for home and community care and \$23.1 million for mental health services.

The increased budget allocation will assist people with a disability to achieve positive long term outcomes, helping to make a real difference to their quality of life. Carers play an important and vital role in achieving these outcomes and the Queensland Government is supporting carers by the development of Carer Action Plan initiatives such as the Carer Business Discount Card and the Companion Card. In addition, \$1.8 million was allocated to Carers Queensland in 2007-08 for outreach support to carers, including counselling, advocacy, support information, education and training.

Amongst the priority areas for 2008-09 is an expanded commitment to providing support to families and individuals, and responding quickly to the needs of people who are experiencing emergency or crisis situations.

Funding provided to Disability Services Queensland for 2008-09 will also allow for a sharper focus on early intervention and prevention programs and services to help expand service capacity.

The Bligh Government is committed to improving services for Queenslanders with a disability, and this year's record Disability budget is a reflection of that.

In addition, the Queensland Government is working closely and positively with the Commonwealth Government to access significant additional funding that has been made available for enhanced disability services, particularly in the area of respite services.