

Question on Notice

No. 1658

Asked on Tuesday, 11 November 2008

MR HAYWARD 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**)—

Are there any arrangements in place between Disability Services Queensland and Disability Services in other states and territories to continue support to people with disabilities wishing to move interstate or move to Queensland?

ANSWER:

In 2006 the Community and Disability Services Ministers' conference endorsed a revised policy on *Moving Interstate: Assistance to People with Disabilities and their Carers* whereby each state/territory agreed to:

- facilitate access to their service system based on relative priority need
- enable individuals to register their demand for service prior to any planned transfer
- give consideration to the transfer of funds for up to 12 months
- establish a central coordination point
- reference portability of support arrangements in any Commonwealth/State Territories Disability Agreement.

Disability Services Queensland has arrangements in place which ensures the smooth transition of people with disabilities, who have individual funding, to move between all Australian states and territories.

Each state and territory department responsible for the provision of disability services has a portability officer. All portability requests are managed by this officer. This process maintains confidentiality of all transferred information as well as assisting to make the process smoother as only one officer is involved with interstate transactions.

Regional officers in all states and territories liaise with local non-government service providers to ascertain services of an appropriate nature in the requested area of relocation.

Currently Disability Services Queensland has 38 active portability files. Of these cases 37% are people with a disability requesting to move to Queensland.