

Question on Notice

No. 1791

Asked on Tuesday, 25 November 2008

MRS MILLER, 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**) –

How has the Department of Communities been able to assist residents of Ipswich who have experienced storm damage and flood damage?

ANSWER:

Following the severe storm on the evening of 18 November 2008, which caused damage and flooding in Ipswich, the Department of Communities has provided access to a range of information and services through a Community Recovery Centre at the Hayden Centre in Ipswich, by doorknocking the affected households and through the community 1800 recovery hotline .

The Department of Communities has worked alongside Lifeline Community Care, the Australian Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Centrelink, the Building Services Authority and insurance representatives to assist affected residents.

Disaster affected residents have been able to access information, emotional support, material goods, financial assistance as well as insurance and rebuilding advice and assistance.

Volunteering Queensland has also worked alongside government and non government agencies to coordinate a volunteer matching service to provide support in disaster affected areas.

As of Monday, 1 December 2008, the Department of Communities has assisted over 1 069 Ipswich residents by providing Emergent Assistance payments. The total value of these personal hardship grants is over \$465 000.

The Department of Communities has commenced home visits to more than 560 affected residents to progress their claims for an Essential Household Content grant and to 41 Ipswich residents who have applied for a Structural Assistance Grant.