Question on Notice

No. 291

Asked on Tuesday, 11 March 2007

MR FENLON 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**)–

As the Department of Communities is one of several government departments responding to homelessness and has allocated $56.45 million over four years for a number of new initiatives—

Will the Minister:

(a) provide details on these initiatives; and

(b) advise what services the Department of Communities provides to those that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless?

ANSWER:

(a) In the 2005-06 State Budget, funding of $235.5 million over four years was announced to establish new and innovative responses to homelessness under the *Responding to Homelessness* initiative.

The Department of Communities was allocated $56.5 million over four years under the *Responding to Homelessness* initiative for new and enhanced responses to homelessness and public intoxication services.

Allocation of these funds includes annual grant funds for the following services:

- $1 million for Homeless Persons Information Queensland, a statewide telephone information and referral service for Queenslanders who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness;
- $2.2 million for service hubs for homeless people in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and the Gold Coast;
- $3.4 million for homelessness early intervention services across Queensland;
- $687,000 for transitional accommodation for young people;
- $3.6 million for crisis accommodation for homeless people with complex needs;
- $1.9 million for crisis accommodation for homeless families;
- $500,000 for responses to public intoxication; and
- $1.5 million for responses to volatile substance misuse.

(b) In addition 2007-08, the Department of Communities allocated $63.5 million, through the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), for homelessness services as part of the government's commitment to safe and supportive communities. This is a joint Commonwealth/State program.

In 2007-08, there were 203 agencies funded to provide crisis supported accommodation eg. youth shelters, hostels for single adults and domestic violence shelters.

In 2007, the Department of Communities also allocated approximately $2.5 million to the accommodation support components of two cross-government initiatives, the Drug Court program and the Queensland Indigenous Alcohol Diversion Program. These innovative programs seek to break the drug/alcohol-crime cycle and divert eligible offenders from imprisonment to treatment.