

Question on Notice

No. 304

Asked on Tuesday 11 March 2008

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

Will she provide an update on the Brisbane Place Project, especially in relation to support for the Stafford community?

ANSWER:

Stafford is one of three communities in which whole-of-government work is being undertaken under Phase Two of the Brisbane Place Program.

The aim of each Place Project is to:

- build a stronger and safer community
- increase employment and training opportunities
- respond better to the needs of groups in the local community
- develop more accessible and better coordinated government services
- strengthen community and business networks and encourage partnerships between community members, business and government.

The Stafford project aims to improve community access to a range of coordinated and targeted support services and to enhance the community's capacity to cope with the impact of population growth and change.

In undertaking Place activities, the department has included the input of residents, locally based community and business organisations and representatives from Local Government Authorities. Significant support has been provided by the members of the Stafford and District Community Forum and the Woolloowin Community Place.

In March this year a public forum was held to canvass local views about a future vision for Stafford. Ideas raised by community representatives at the forum included:

- enhancing early intervention and family support services for vulnerable families in the area;
- a community news sheet to provide residents with essential information and contact details about key government and community support services available in the area;
- additional diversionary activities for at risk young people, for example by linking such young people with local sporting clubs; and
- improving recreation facilities in local parks, for example through improvements to changing facilities and lighting, as a means to encourage families and young people to better access these spaces.

The Place Project formally concludes on 30 June this year. The Department of Communities has provided a grant of \$90,000 to a non-government organisation to support the implementation of the Stafford Place project outcomes through the development of an Action Plan. Implementing the Action Plan will ensure the positive outcomes of the Stafford Place project are embedded into future planning for the Stafford community.