Question on Notice

No. 402

Asked on Tuesday 13 March 2008

MS DARLING ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL)—

QUESTION:

How will the new workplace health and safety action plans assist local businesses reduce the cost of work place injury in our community?

ANSWER:

The Government is committed to reducing the unacceptable rate of work-related fatality, injury and disease. Each year there are around 100 work-related fatalities in Queensland. Those deaths are a tragic waste of life.

I am advised that work-related injury and illness in Queensland costs our community around $5.2 billion per year.

The Queensland Government is working with business, workers and their representatives to reduce the level of fatalities and injuries. On 5 March 2008 I launched phase two of the *Queensland Workplace Health and Safety Strategy 2004-12* with the release of the Workplace Health and Safety Industry Action Plans 2008 – 2010. These Industry Action Plans were developed for the construction, manufacturing, health and community services, rural, transport and storage, retail and wholesale, and hospitality, recreation and other services industry sectors.

The Industry Action Plans provide a focus for workplace health and safety efforts for the next three years. They were developed in consultation with the tripartite Industry Sector Standing Committees, to ensure initiatives contained in the Action Plans provided practical solutions for identified problems.

The plans focus on educating, informing and managing risks in the workplace and aim to build a workplace culture that makes workplace health and safety an integral part of normal business operations.

A greater focus on education and awareness of workplace health and safety risks is good news for employers, workers and their families in the electorate of Sandgate. I am advised Workplace Health and Safety Queensland will introduce a range of initiatives that will provide practical information to employers and workers in the electorate so that they can prevent or minimise work-related injury and disease.