

Question on Notice

No. 482

Asked on Thursday 17 April 2007

MS VICKY DARLING 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 LINDY NELSON-CARR) –

Will she explain how the Queensland Child Care Information Service will help families choose the most suitable early childhood education and care service for their children?

ANSWER:

The Child Care Information Service is a free statewide information service provided by the Department of Communities. The service operates from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday, and provides information to assist families in choosing early childhood education and care that meets their needs.

During 2007, the Child Care Information Service received 7,111 calls from individuals. Of these calls 3,865 were from parents seeking information on the types of early childhood education and care or service locations in Queensland and 1,695 were from individuals seeking information and advice regarding child care in Queensland.

The Child Care Information Service provides information on child care services located in Queensland including:

- the types of child care services such as long day care, family day care and kindergartens;
- the location, hours of operation and contact details for services; and
- information on what to look for in a quality service.

To assist families in choosing care, a number of resources are available on the department's website, www.communities.qld.gov.au/childcare and are designed to help parents find a high quality child care service that will suit the needs of their family. Information sheets on topics such as 'Understanding early childhood education and care services' and 'Making care and education work for you' may either be downloaded from the internet or posted. Parents can also search for child care services in their local area online and access publications including parent tip sheets and links to other organisations.

The Child Care Information Service does not make recommendations about a particular service, but it provides contact details and other important information about services to assist families to decide the best option to meet their children's needs.