

Question on Notice

No. QON 597

Asked on Tuesday, 29 April 2008

MR GARY FENLON 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)–

As the Queensland Government is establishing Early Years Centres at Nerang, Caboolture, Browns Plains and Cairns – Will she detail the purpose of these centres and provide information on what services and support families could expect as visitors to these centres?

ANSWER:

- The Early Years Centres form part of the Bligh Government's strategy to support parents in giving their children the best start in life.
- The centres are designed as community friendly 'one-stop shops' for children and families providing access to early childhood education and care services, family support and health services. Other services include child health checks, immunisation, toy libraries, child care, parenting programs and referrals to specialist services.
- Hours will be flexible to meet the needs of busy mothers and fathers with children up to eight years old.
- The Early Years Centres being established at Nerang, Caboolture, Browns Plains and Cairns are a significant investment of \$32 million over four years by the Queensland Government.
- It is expected that each year up to 1,000 families will be assisted by the staff and services offered through each Early Years Centre.