

## Question on Notice

No. 1408

Asked on Wednesday 7 October 2009

**MRS KEECH** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (MS PALASZCZUK)—

Will the Minister advise details of respite care services the Bligh Government provides for Queensland's older carers?

### ANSWER:

The Bligh Government's Respite for Older Parent Carer initiative demonstrates our commitment to older carers through the provision of a range of respite supports and by offering families the opportunity to plan and prepare for the future.

In September 2009, the Bligh Government approved \$12.6 million over three years for the Respite for Older Parent Carer initiative.

This commitment ensures that the 22 funded organisations continue to provide respite services in 25 locations across Queensland to older parent carers aged 65 years and over and Indigenous carers aged 45 years and over.

This initiative takes a strategic approach to the delivery of services by engaging with older carers. This involves planning viable support arrangements for the family member and taking active steps to prepare for the transition of their sons and daughters to independent living.

During 2008–09, almost 950 families were registered to receive respite support and to engage in transitional planning with Project Officers employed through the initiative.

In addition to this initiative, \$5.5 million in ongoing funding was provided in 2008–09 to 10 respite service providers in 17 locations across Queensland. This funding has increased the range and availability of respite services to Queensland families, with priority consideration given to the family members of older carers.

The 10 respite providers will provide an estimated 828 new respite places and provide employment for up to 84 support and coordination staff across the State.

The respite provided by this initiative may include in-home support, centre-based respite and community based support. In some locations, emergency respite and other flexible respite options are available.

The Bligh Government acknowledges the long-standing contribution of older carers to the lives of those they care for by significantly boosting the availability of respite and by providing plans for the future care of their family members.

The provision of respite support will also have a direct impact on achieving this Government's vision for Fair Communities under *Towards Q2—Tomorrow's Queensland* by increasing the number of carers who can remain in or return to the workforce.