

Question on Notice

No. 1414

Asked on Wednesday 7 October 2009

MR MOORHEAD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HOUSING AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (MS STRUTHERS)—

Will the Minister inform the House of funding provided by the Bligh Government to non-government organisations to provide improved salaries for workers in the community services sector?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is aware of the recent decisions to increase wage levels for community and disability sector workers.

The Queensland Government's 2009–10 State Budget included an extra \$414 million over four years to support non-government organisations in responding to cost pressures including those from wage increases. This was the largest single commitment in the State Budget and is being directed to maintain vital services and jobs.

In 2009–10, \$65 million will be provided to non-government organisations. This will increase to \$100 million in 2010–11, \$124 million in 2011–12 and \$125 million recurrently from 2012–13.

The allocation of this funding has involved a cross department moderation process to ensure consistent allocation based on the level of need of the people receiving the services.

The allocation per department in 2009–10 is:

- Department of Communities: \$56.1 million
- Queensland Health: \$5.3 million
- Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation: \$1.86 million
- Department of Education and Training: \$998,000
- Department of Justice and Attorney-General: \$677,000
- Department of Community Safety: \$87,000

Over 85 per cent of this funding has already been allocated to non-government organisations. The remaining 15 per cent will be allocated throughout 2009–10 as part of ongoing departmental funding processes.