

Question on Notice

No. 1462

Asked on Thursday 8 October 2009

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

What services and programs are available to assist seniors in the Sandgate Electorate, particularly seniors in social housing?

ANSWER:

Housing and Homelessness Services of the Department of Communities has 679 long term social housing properties in the electorate of Sandgate. The majority of these properties (601) are managed directly by the department through the Public Housing program. A further 57 properties are managed by community housing providers. Twenty-one properties are managed by the Department of Communities for Indigenous peoples in the Sandgate area.

The department provides funding and engages with local community support agencies that provide support and assistance to older Queenslanders to live with dignity and continue to live in their own homes. Services and programs available include:

- **Home and Community Care Home Modification Services**—providing information, assessment, project management and/or financial assistance with larger home modifications, such as ramps and bathroom adaptations.
- **Home Assist Secure**—providing free information, referrals and subsidised assistance to older people and people with disabilities who wish to remain living in their own homes.

In the Sandgate area a number of agencies offer a range of services to seniors including:

- **Home and Community Care**—services delivered through St Vincent de Paul providing assistance with home maintenance, falls prevention and home security.
- **Brighton Home Assist Secure and St Margaret's, Sandgate**—providing similar services to St Vincent de Paul.
- **Blue Care, Sandgate**—assisting older Queenslanders with health management, personal care, domestic care, and respite care.
- **Sandgate Meals on Wheels**; and
- **Eventide Aged Care**—a State Government Residential Aged Care Facility providing secure high care, respite and psycho-geriatric care.

Sandgate and Bracken Ridge Action Group Inc (SANDBAG) currently receives defined term funding of \$185,190 per annum for three years under the Community Support Services key funding area to provide community focussed activities such as community development, community education, training, volunteer training and service development activities, many of which are provided through the Sandgate Community Centre.

SANDBAG is also in receipt of defined term funding of \$40,525 per annum for three years under the Domestic Violence Prevention key funding area to assist women and children who are experiencing or have experienced domestic and family violence. Services provided include counselling and support, therapeutic groups and the provision of information, advice and referral in the north-east Brisbane area.

In addition, SANDBAG receives defined term funding of \$70,116 for one year under the Domestic Violence Prevention key funding area to fund the position of the Program Coordinator for the Domestic Violence Service.