

Question on Notice

No. 1483

Asked on Thursday 8 October 2009

MS NELSON-CARR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (MS PALASZCZUK)—

Will the Minister inform the House on the government's commitments to assisting seniors, in particular, the recent funding boost for the Home and Community Care program?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government greatly values the contributions that seniors make to Queensland's economic, social and cultural life. We are supporting seniors through a wide range of programs and services, so they can continue to actively participate in their communities.

The Bligh and Rudd Governments are investing an extra \$36 million to help frail older and younger disabled Queenslanders live independently for longer. The funds are being invested to deliver home modifications, better transport options, more allied health care, and support for carers so that people can remain living in their own homes and communities.

We want to assist people to live independent lives, and avoid them entering residential care prematurely.

Eight service providers across the electorates of Townsville, Mundingburra and Thuringowa have been offered funding increases:

- Blue Care Townsville
- Magnetic Island Community Care
- St Luke's Nursing Service
- Twin Cities Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation (Aged Care)
- Community Care Transport
- Lifeline Personal Alarms
- Ethnic Community Care Links Inc
- Ozcare.

Around 400 more eligible people in the Townsville/Thuringowa area, most of them seniors, are expected to benefit from extra funding:

- \$382,615 a year for more home support services (including domestic assistance, social support, personal care, respite care and home maintenance services);
- \$153,082 a year for more nursing and allied health care services;
- \$205,875 a year for more centre-based day care services; and
- \$4,690 for extra transport services.

This year, our total investment across Queensland, to help people live independently for longer is \$429.2 million, an increase of \$44.8 million from the 2008–09 budget.