

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1816**

**Asked on Thursday 12 November 2009**

**MR FINN** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (MS PALASZCZUK)—

What is the government doing to assist Queensland school leavers with a disability with future education and employment opportunities?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Government is committed to assisting school leavers with a disability and their families during the significant transition from school into adult life, believing that all Queenslanders are entitled to the opportunity to participate fully in their community.

As part of the Queensland Government's \$4 million Post School Services Program, I was very pleased to announce the Transition from School initiative on 11 November 2009. This initiative aims to help school leavers who have a goal of accessing further education, training and employment opportunities, to access these options.

The Post School Services program will support 290 Queensland school leavers in 2009–10, up from 260 in 2008–09. The program enables young adults to experience a range of options and opportunities as they move towards establishing a life after school. In the Yeerongpilly electorate, four young people will receive funding in the 2009–10 funding round.

It is recognised that the completion of schooling presents challenges and opportunities for families as well as for the young person. The program supports families through this transition by providing information, involving them in planning for their son or daughter's future and assisting them to identify supports.

Families are provided with assistance to identify and negotiate the required supports, both formal and informal. These supports may be accessed through a range of services that are both disability specific and generally available to all young people.

Post School Services can assist in allaying the fears and concerns of parents for their son or daughter by providing supports that are focused on their individual needs including skills development, personal development, and broadening of social networks.

The Transition from School initiative provides funding for up to three years and will help young people gain employment by supporting them to learn new skills in information technology, communications and business. As these young people enter work, vacancies will be created for other students with a disability to enter the initiative.