

## Question on Notice

No. 1819

Asked on Thursday 12 November 2009

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

What measures is the Bligh Government taking to assist working families in my electorate experiencing financial crisis caused by the current tough economic conditions?

### ANSWER:

In the 2009–10 financial year, the Queensland Government has allocated a total of \$16 million to community services funded under the *Community Services Act 2007* within the Brisbane Central electorate.

A total of 65 services in the electorate receive this funding. More specifically within this \$16 million funding total, approximately \$2.8 million is allocated to non-government organisations to provide services to support individuals, families and communities within the Brisbane Central electorate.

Lifeline Community Care Queensland has received funds totalling \$2,170,242 to assist families experiencing financial crisis. This organisation provides two services to families across Queensland to assist with issues of financial difficulty. The first is the Financial Counselling service which provides telephone counselling relating to credit and debt issues. The second service offered by Lifeline Queensland is the Financial First Aid service. This service also assists individuals and families to resolve credit and debt issues by offering face-to-face counselling. Both services are free, independent and confidential.

Within the next month, the Department of Communities will be releasing \$1.4 million to provide emergency relief in the form of cash, food vouchers, food parcels and third party payments to assist families and individuals experiencing financial crisis. Of this funding, the Brisbane Central electorate will receive \$97,000 for emergency relief and it will be distributed by four major non-government organisations.

Also in 2009–10, the Government has provided recurrent funds totalling \$3,077,910 under the Community Rent Scheme to two registered housing providers in the Brisbane Central electorate to accommodate families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness: 4Walls Housing received \$2,193,676 and Inner North Community Housing received \$884,234.