

Question on Notice
No. 2023
Asked on 7 October 2010

MR WELLINGTON asked the Premier and Minister for the Arts (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the significant cost of compliance and licensing requirements the State Government places on not-for-profit organisations which provide a range of services to children and adults –

Will the government review and simplify this current range of compliance requirements?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that Queenslanders have access to quality services that improve people's lives. The Government makes a significant investment in social services provided by community organisations. The Department of Communities alone will provide \$1.58 billion in grants in 2010-11 to enable those organisations to deliver services.

The Government has also invested \$414 million over four years to ensure the continued delivery of services by not-for-profit organisations, in response to cost increases that include an increase in award wages for community services workers.

The Queensland Government is already working with the community sector to reduce the costs of compliance. Examples include:

- Streamlined quality standards for human services are being developed by the Department of Communities in collaboration with the community sector. This will result in less duplication of accreditation processes, and in streamlined quality audits,
- Output funding and reporting has been implemented by the Department of Communities. Not-for-profit organisations will report on what they have delivered with Government funding rather than inputs, which will significantly reduce administrative reporting requirements, an example of this is in the Disability Services area, where the Endeavour Foundation has been able to reduce its quarterly reports to government from 124 to one,
- Implementing the national Standard Chart of Accounts will reduce administrative costs for not-for-profit organisations, particularly those that work across State borders, and
- Drafting a *Fair Trading and Other Legislation Amendment Bill*, to be released for community consultation shortly, in which it will be proposed to allow associations incorporated under Queensland's *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* to transition seamlessly to being a company limited by guarantee under the *Commonwealth Corporations Act 2001* or an Indigenous corporation under the *Commonwealth Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*. This will save transfer duty and any capital gains tax being incurred.

This all helps free up resources for the non-Government sector to do what it does best – delivering important services to support disadvantaged families and individuals and helping people overcome barriers to employment.

Not-for-profit organisations make a vital contribution to the Queensland community, and they are important partners with the Government in delivering on our Q2 ambitions of a fairer Queensland. Community organisations do a great job in supporting families and individuals and I am sure that the Honourable Member will agree with me that they are to be congratulated.