

Question on Notice

No. 476

Asked on 11 March 2010

Mr Moorhead asked the Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs (MS PALASZCZUK)—

QUESTION

What is the State Government doing to support people with a spinal injury?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government has committed over \$50 million to the Spinal Cord Injury Response initiative since it began in 2006.

This initiative is a partnership between Disability Services, Queensland Health's Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme, the Princess Alexandra Hospital Spinal Injuries Unit and the Spinal Injuries Association.

It ensures people with spinal cord injuries get access to essential personal care, specialised equipment, safe, appropriate and affordable housing and home modifications and is focussed on helping individuals transition back to their community and preventing unnecessary hospital readmissions.

Last year I announced an extra \$500,000 to fund personal care and support for people with spinal cord injuries, on top of the existing annual allocation of \$1 million from Disability Services.

Other funding for the initiative comes from:

- Department of Communities (Housing)—\$38.5 million
- Department of Communities (Home Modifications)—\$4 million
- Queensland Health (Medical Aids)—\$1.4 million.

Through this initiative, \$6.9 million in recurrent funding has been provided to the Spinal Injuries Association to support people with a spinal injury. To date, 77 people with a spinal injury have been assisted to leave the hospital's spinal injury unit and return to their own home.