

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 1001
Asked on 16 June 2011

MS GRACE asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Economies (MR MULHERIN)–

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how recovery centres and mobile offices assist Far North Queensland communities in the post cyclone/flood recovery phase?

ANSWER:

Initial Response

Immediately post Cyclone Yasi a call centre was set up out of Brisbane to respond to individuals seeking assistance. A total of 1 169 persons contacted the call centre, 1 320 requested a call back. A total of 2 489 calls were made.

Mobile Offices

Two Mobile Offices visited 12 rural centres in North Queensland extending the reach of Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) support services to people in smaller townships that were removed from Recovery Centre locations. In all, the Mobile Offices provided support to 239 impacted or affected people.

At those locations, officers distributed cyclone assistance information sheets and application forms and took the details of individuals seeking additional assistance. Cyclone assistance included DEEDI information sheets for small businesses and primary producers, QRAA assistance and Operation Clean-up information.

Recovery Centres

Four Recovery Centres (Ingham, Tully, Cardwell and Mission Beach) were established.

The initial Recovery Centre at Ingham assisted 248 people immediately after Cyclone Yasi.

The Community Recovery and Information Referral Centre (CR&IRC) at Ingham assisted 120 people and offered information on assistance available, including Operation Clean-Up and assisted with applications for QRAA assistance.

A total of 1 192 consultations have been achieved to date at the Tully, Cardwell and Mission Beach Cyclone Recovery Centres and Information Hubs.

From 21–23 February 2011, 252 business shopfronts were door knocked in the Tully, Cardwell and Mission Beach areas. Four presentations on Cyclone Yasi assistance and DEEDI business services occurred at the Cassowary Coast Business Women's Network, Cardwell Chamber of Commerce, Tully Chamber of Commerce and the Cairns Regional Council.

Business recovery and business development workshops were promoted in Mission Beach, Cardwell and Tully Chambers in June 2011.