

## Question on Notice

No. 1038

Asked on 16 June 2011

MS DAVIS asked the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport (MR REEVES)—

### QUESTION

Will the Minister detail all residential care facility projects (including proposed location) that were budgeted for but not completed in the allocated 2008–09 and 2009–10 capital works for Child Safety that account for the respective 74 per cent and 48 per cent capital underspends?

### ANSWER

I note the Member for Aspley's question relating to capital investment and her recent media release, also relating to capital investment which made claims that were untrue and misleading.

Had the Member bothered to check her facts, she would have understood the figures she used to make incorrect claims in her media release were not comparable and do not represent actual expenditure in this important area. The Member continues to demonstrate a lack of understanding of the Child Safety portfolio.

Reporting in budget paper 3—Capital Statement relates only to 'live' projects or those projects that are continuing into 2011–12 and onwards.

In fact, the Bligh Government invested \$1.661 million in Therapeutic Residentials in 2010–11, a far cry from the \$8,000 the Member claimed was spent when she released her deceptive media release.

Additionally, the Bligh Government invested \$4.9 million in Residentials in 2010–11, not \$1 million as the Member also incorrectly claimed in her media release.

These incorrect statements are a clear demonstration the Member is not bothering to do her homework before criticising the hard working staff of Child Safety Services.

The Bligh Government has demonstrated a clear commitment to the continuous improvement of Queensland's child protection system.

We are ensuring that abused and neglected children and young people have safe and supportive places to live. Today in Queensland, we invest above the national average in Child Protection Services to help keep our children safe.

The below table details residential care facilities that were budgeted for in 2008–09 and 2009–10.

Project	Budget details	Status	Total capital expenditure to date (\$000)
Small Group Home—Upper Coomera	Project budgeted in 2008–09.	Completed	1570
Small Group Home—Toowoomba	Project budgeted in 2008–09.	Completed	392
Small Group Home—Andergrove	Project budgeted in 2008–09.	Completed	136
Small Group Home Residential—Forestdale	Project budgeted in 2008–09 and 2009–10	Completed	880

Small Group Home Residential— Nambour	Project budgeted in 2008–09.	Completed	970
Small Group Home Residential— Mt Isa	Project budgeted in 2008–09.	Completed	1144
Small Group Home Residential— Rockhampton	Project budgeted in 2008–09.	Site acquired, project ongoing	562
Small Group Home Residential— Brassall	Project budgeted in 2008–09.	Site acquired, project ongoing	415
Small Group Home Residential— Burpengary	Project budgeted in 2009–10	Completed	847
Small Group Home Residential— Kingaroy	Project budgeted in 2009–10.	Completed	604
Small Group Home Residential— Helensvale	Project budgeted in 2009–10.	Completed	1217
Small Group Home Residential— Loganlea	Project budgeted in 2008–09.	Under construction. Project close to completion	1815
Small Group Home Residential— White Rock	Project budgeted in 2009–10.	Site acquired, project ongoing	265
Small Group Home Residential— Atherton	Project budgeted in 2009–10.	Site acquired, project ongoing	824
Small Group Home Residential— Chandler	Project budgeted in 2009–10.	Site acquired, project ongoing.	1189
		<b>Total</b>	<b>12830</b>

The Government has provided significant capital funds from 2007 to 2013 to buy or construct 15 Small Group Homes which will be operated by the non-government sector to provide around-the-clock supervised residential care for children and young people with high to complex support needs.

This extra capital infrastructure adds to the existing and expanding residential care options available, 94 per cent of which are either owned or rented by the non-government sector.

In 2011–12 we expect to invest more than \$197 million to support a diverse range of placements for Queensland's most vulnerable children and young people.

Additional to this capital expenditure, 11 safe houses have been or are being built in remote Indigenous communities. Safe Houses allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to remain connected to their kin and their community while their families address child protection concerns.

Furthermore, four Therapeutic Residential services have been or are being built in four locations across the State. Therapeutic Residential Care Services provide intensive therapeutic care to young people with complex and extreme support needs, in a therapeutic living environment, to facilitate recovery from the impacts of physical, psychological and emotional trauma resulting from their experiences of harm. This is a clear demonstration of the Queensland Government investing heavily in our capital infrastructure.

The Bligh Government remains committed to supporting Queensland's most vulnerable children and young people. In 2011–12, we are investing \$733 million to ensure our children have every opportunity to reach their full potential.