

## Question on Notice

No. 1080

Asked on 17 June 2011

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

### QUESTION

With reference to the Helping Out Families initiative—

Will the Minister advise how this initiative is helping families living on the Gold Coast?

### ANSWER

The Bligh Government recognises the essential role families play in ensuring the health and wellbeing of children.

In particular, the Bligh Government invests in a range of family support initiatives across the State that are delivered by non-government organisations to meet the needs of families.

One way the Bligh Government is supporting families is through the investment of \$55 million over four years for the Helping Out Families initiative in south east Queensland. The Helping Out Families initiative was launched by the Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women, the Honourable Karen Struthers MP and me in October 2010. This initiative provides vulnerable families with access to an integrated and holistic service through a coordinated alliance of intensive, targeted and universal services, including health services.

Supporting families in need continues to be a priority for the Bligh Government, which is why the 2011–12 State Budget includes \$15 million to continue to deliver the Helping Out Families initiative in south east Queensland.

Since 31 January 2011, Gold Coast families, including families in the Broadwater Electorate have benefited from:

- a Family Support Alliance Service which links families with the right support at the right time;
- an Intensive Family Support Service providing holistic needs assessment and case management to ensure families needs are met;
- an increase in services that support families experiencing domestic and family violence; and
- increased access to health home visiting services with six universal health contacts for all parents/carers with children 0 to 3 years. For those families requiring additional support, up to 15 contact visits may be provided in the first 12 months.

I was pleased to recently attend the opening of the new ACT for Kids offices at West Burleigh on the Gold Coast. Through these new offices, ACT for Kids will be helping to improve the lives of vulnerable Queensland families as part of the Helping Out Families initiative.

Support from the Bligh Government will enable ACT for Kids to continue their strong record of delivering support services to families on the Gold Coast. These services include improved domestic and family violence responses, home health visits and referrals to specialist support. ACT for Kids is already delivering the Helping Out Families initiative to families in crisis with more than 335 referrals received to date.

The Bligh Government is committed to supporting families to ensure our children and young people are safe and nurtured. Through strong partnerships with the non-government sector, there is a greater range of programs and services being delivered across Queensland than ever before.

Helping Out Families has increased the capacity of a range of family support services to provide specialist support for Gold Coast families to help them keep their children safe.

I thank the Member for her support for these important initiatives in Queensland.