

Question on Notice

No. 287

Asked on 22 March 2011

MR RICKUSS asked the Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women (MS STRUTHERS)—

QUESTION

With reference to neighbourhood centres which have been under pressure due to the disaster of this summer and which need an increase in funding—

Will there be an increase in funding for the neighbourhood centres in my area of Lockyer and surrounds (Mary Street Laidley, Link Gatton and Caddies Jimboomba) for 2011–12 and 2012–13?

ANSWER

I commend your advocacy for your local services and community members.

All neighbourhood centres, including Laidley Community Centre, Lockyer Information and Neighbourhood Centre (Link Gatton) and Jimboomba Community Care have been providing essential services to community members during this disaster recovery period. The South West Region is currently working with the Laidley Community Centre around the possibility of the centre employing an additional worker to assist with increased workload due to the floods. This worker would be funded under the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

In response to the natural disasters, the Queensland Government is offering funding to eligible organisations under the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. Organisations directly affected by the disasters may be eligible for a recovery grant of up to \$25,000, and a concessional interest loan of up to \$100,000, including a further grant of up to \$5,000 when a loan of over \$25,000 is accessed (by way of combination of loan and grant in the ratio 5:1).

The Department of Communities is also collaborating with Commonwealth, State and local governments and local community non-government organisations to plan for the ongoing community recovery, including community development activities.