

## Question on Notice

No. 938

Asked on 14 June 2011

MR HOPPER asked the Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (MR PITT)—

### QUESTION

Will the Minister advise if not-for-profit organisations providing care for disabled or elderly community members will continue having to pay the exorbitant inspection and report fees of \$1,172.25 to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, Department of Community Safety for government accreditation to ensure the buildings they provide their services from remain certified?

### ANSWER

Our non-government partners provide a vital service caring for Queenslanders with a disability. We value the role they play in enriching the lives of others. That's why we have set aside more than half a billion dollars in the 2011–12 State Budget for home and community care services.

Queenslanders with a disability, their families and carers will benefit from a record investment of \$1.775 billion in disability and community care services in the 2011–12 State Budget, an increase of 10.2 per cent on the last financial year.

New funds of \$11.7 million in 2011–12 will deliver more support packages for people with a disability, their families and carers.

The extra funding includes \$7.36 million in new funds to expand support for young people with a disability, and \$4.34 million for accommodation support for adults with disability, many of whom, have older parent carers.

It means the State Government will be able to deliver more support options and personal care services for people with a disability. Without assistance to get out and about in their local community, many people with a disability could end up in residential care, instead of in their own home.

We have also set aside more than half a billion dollars in the 2011–12 State Budget for home and community care services, and \$70.32 million for non-clinical mental health services.

With all these funds we will be able to offer better access to a range of support services to help people with a disability, or with a mental illness or who are frail aged, get out and about in their local community, whether it's to go shopping, attend training courses to gain more skills, or to pursue their personal interests.

The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services has indicated the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) has confirmed that organisations providing care for the disabled or elderly, receive funding from the Commonwealth and State Governments.

In order to continue to receive funding, they must hold accreditation from the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards. This accreditation process involves a range of items including fire safety standards. To enable accreditation for fire safety standards, the organisation requires a compliance certificate from a fire safety provider.

Organisations have a choice on where they can obtain the fire safety compliance certificate. A number of private providers offer these services in Queensland and other states.

The QFRS along with all other private providers, charges for this service. These fire safety inspections ensure that these buildings have an acceptable standard to ensure the safety of their disabled and elderly occupants in the event of a fire.