

Question on Notice

No. 564

Asked on 20 August 2013

Mr STEVENS asked the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (Ms DAVIS)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister detail what support is provided by the government to assist victims of domestic and family violence in the Mermaid Beach area?

ANSWER

As I am sure you are aware, domestic and family violence is an issue of great concern to this government.

In the 2013–14 financial year, the Queensland Government is funding a broad range of programs that will assist people affected by domestic and family violence in the Mermaid Beach area.

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention and Support Program funding provides service system responses to people who are affected by domestic and family violence. The Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast Inc is funded \$1,404,228 to provide a range of services. This includes counselling and support, court support, intervention programs for people who perpetrate abuse, resource services and safety upgrade services. This increases the level of practical assistance and support available to victims of domestic and family violence and their children.

Further funding of \$907,583 is allocated to organisations to deliver domestic violence services under the Helping Out Families Program which aims to divert vulnerable families with children (unborn to 18 years) away from the statutory child protection system. This includes court support, counselling and support, children's counselling and support and intervention programs for people who perpetrate abuse.

Under Homelessness Programs, the Queensland Government funds two organisations a total of \$1.264 million to provide accommodation for women and children escaping domestic violence; and a further \$414,114 to provide immediate accommodation and support to single women and women with accompanying children who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness to enable them to move towards independent living. These women are often victims of domestic violence.

The Targeted Family Support Program aims to support vulnerable children, young people (unborn to 18) and their families (including victims of domestic and family violence at a broader secondary level). Under this program, the Queensland Government funds two Family Support services a total of \$149,177. Victims of domestic and family violence in the Mermaid Beach area can access these services (located at Palm Beach and Burleigh) and in turn, may be referred on to more specialist intervention as assessed necessary.

In addition to the locally funded programs, victims of domestic and family violence in the Mermaid Beach area can access broader Queensland Government funded services as follows:

- DVConnect Womensline, telephone number 1800 811 811, is available 24 hours, seven days a week for confidential advice, crisis intervention support and accommodation; and
- DVConnect Mensline, telephone number 1800 800 636 is available between 9am and midnight, seven days a week for men who are experiencing domestic and family violence, or want to address their violent behaviour.

The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services coordinates Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month in May each year. In 2013, a community awareness campaign called "Make the Call" used advertising, social media, posters and helpcards distributed through community services, in an effort to:

- increase community awareness that domestic and family violence is not just physical abuse; and
- provide information about warning signs and how to help people who have concerns about someone they know.