

Question on Notice

No. 853

Asked on 20 November 2013

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (MS DAVIS)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister outline the programs currently available to access funding for capital works to provide accommodation options for people with disabilities?

ANSWER

The Member for Gladstone raises a very important matter as the Queensland Government prepares for the full implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme from now until 2019.

There will be a rapid expansion of disability support funding as the Queensland Government increases the number of people with disability currently receiving support from 45,000 a year to approximately 97,000 by 2018–19.

A significant number of people who will receive this additional support will be adults with a disability living at home with their parents; and a significant number of this group will have elderly parent carers wanting independent housing and support options for their adult sons and daughters.

There will be a huge need to generate housing options for people with a disability to complement the rapid expansion of disability support funding over the next five years.

A capital works program is only one way to meet this rapid expansion in demand for housing. Embarking upon a capital works program, fully funded by taxpayers, has been a way of meeting the needs of people who struggle to access the private rental market.

This government intends to stimulate capital investment differently to how governments have previously acted in the past by:

- encouraging innovation to achieve better social outcomes
- leveraging funding by partnering with non-government and private organisations which provide financial or in-kind contributions from other sources
- making use of surplus government land.

This government is committed to stimulating the Queensland economy and achieving value for money.

Under the Elderly Parent Carer Innovation Trial, the Queensland Government will contribute \$15 million over three years from 2012–13 to fund one-off and time-limited innovative capital and investment projects to assist adults with a disability who are being cared for by their elderly parents in Queensland.

The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services conducted the first round of funding for this trial in April 2013 for five projects. These projects will create up to 39 accommodation places in areas across Queensland in Brisbane's Albany Creek, Woodridge, Bundaberg and Rockhampton.

These projects will have a value of \$10.5 million with an investment by government of approximately \$4.7 million.

A second round of funding for the Elderly Parent Carer Innovation Trial will commence mid 2013–14 with up to \$10.3 million available for capital projects to be delivered statewide.

Another initiative by this government to generate housing options for people with a disability and stimulate the Queensland economy is the Government Land for Accommodation and Support Services program. This program provides surplus government land to not-for-profit organisations to develop much-needed facilities for affordable accommodation and other support services.

The Government Land for Accommodation and Support Services program is designed to meet the critical need for developments providing affordable accommodation, social housing, disability services and support services. Some of the successful developments may include affordable housing, targeted disability housing, non-residential respite care centres, or other facilities to support people with disabilities.

The Government Land for Accommodation and Support Services program Expression of Interest process closed on Tuesday 10 September 2013.

Both the Elderly Parent Carer Innovation Trial and the Government Land for Accommodation and Support Services program demonstrate this government's creativity in meeting the housing and support needs of Queenslanders with disability over the next five years.