

Question on Notice
No. 463
Asked on 4 June 2014

MR KRAUSE asked the Minister for Health (MR SPRINGBORG)-

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the government is assisting children with prosthetic limbs and their families in meeting the cost of upgrading these items as children grow?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Beaudesert for his question.

Through the Queensland Artificial Limb Service (QALS), the Queensland Government already funds the provision of free standard prosthetic limbs for children, to meet their basic mobility needs. QALS recognises that children require replacement limbs regularly as they grow and generally obtain replacement prosthetics on an annual basis.

However, children with prosthetic limbs may need a different type of prosthesis in order to participate in community recreational activities such as running, swimming or playing musical instruments. As part of the 2014–2015 budget, the Queensland Government has approved the reallocation of \$7.7 million over four years to provide children with free recreational prosthetic limbs in addition to their standard prosthetic limb.

Currently, 132 children receive standard prosthetic limbs through QALS to support their basic mobility needs, and now these children can also receive recreational limbs to pursue their sporting or musical interests. Lower limb prosthetic components such as the ‘blade’ are used for running and there are a variety of attachments to hold musical instruments for upper limbs.

This new Active Limbs4Kids Program will provide Queensland children, up to the age of 18, with prosthetic limbs for recreational use and with replacements on an annual basis as the children grow. The four-year program will fund the majority of costs for new and replacement recreational limbs, depending on the prosthetic components selected and their purpose, as well as ongoing maintenance and repairs to the recreational limbs as needed.

The Active Limbs4Kids Program will also assist in preparing for the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, scheduled to be fully implemented in Queensland from 1 July 2019.