

Question on Notice

No. 49

Asked on 12 February 2014

Mr Hobbs asked the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (MS DAVIS) -

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise how the government has assisted community and volunteer groups in drought affected areas of Queensland?

ANSWER

This government has allocated just over \$2 million to strengthen the resilience of drought affected Queenslanders by revitalising existing community support mechanisms and utilising community events to provide important information. These events will support individuals and families, linking them to the services and supports they need.

Up to \$1.3 million has been allocated for the development and implementation of community-led local projects and the delivery of training and support to key community leaders.

To date, a total of \$950,000 has been allocated to 28 councils and service providers in drought affected areas.

Service providers are receiving funding of between \$30-\$50,000 for projects, such as community events, training and resources for local leaders and direct support for producers and families under stress.

Since the funding was approved, three additional areas have been drought declared. The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services is currently working with these areas to identify appropriate projects for one-off grants for the additional areas.

Up to \$700,000 has been allocated for the provision of statewide counselling, case management and brokerage response to help people under stress when things are getting too much.

Negotiations are continuing with UnitingCare Community (UCC) to provide statewide counselling, support, training, resources, information, advice and referral.

\$86,803 has been allocated to current applications for small grants under the Caring for our Community initiative. These applications have been fast tracked so community groups in areas hit by drought can purchase much needed equipment to keep local projects on track.

A total of 23 community organisations in drought affected communities have already received funding grants up to \$5000, including:

- The Stonehenge Action Group received \$5000 for outdoor items to be utilised by the families, community members and tourists visiting and travelling through the town. The facilities will support quality family time and provide a focus point for community gatherings.
- The Isisford Sheep and Wool Inc. received \$4000 for UHF radios and stoves to assist their volunteer community group.