

Question on Notice

No. 647

Asked on Wednesday, 24 May 2023

MR J LANGBROEK ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TREATY, MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS, MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Community Support Scheme (QCSS)—

Will the Minister advise (a) how much funding is allocated for QCSS for this financial year 2022-23, (b) how many Queenslanders have received help through the QCSS for this financial year 2022-23 to date and (c) how many people are currently on the wait list for assistance through the QCSS?

ANSWER:

In 2022-23, the funding provided for the Queensland Community Support Scheme (QCSS) is \$39.8 million. The program is delivered by a range of contracted service providers, with Ozcare contracted to deliver services as the Access Point Provider.

The QCSS promotes independence, enabling the active participation of people within their community and reducing social isolation. The QCSS provides low intensity support to help keep people at home in their communities, and is designed to complement other services available, both formal and informal, and is not intended to meet all aspects of a person's care requirements.

There is significant demand for QCSS services, including from people who are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or Aged Care support.

In the first three quarters of 2022-23 (financial year to end of March 2023), the scheme has supported 6,898 Queenslanders, delivering more than 294,700 hours of support.

QCSS service providers have done exceptional work in delivering valuable in-home and community connection services throughout the challenges faced since its commencement in 2019, including uncertainties during the historic transition to full NDIS implementation (1 July 2019), to maintaining service continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic, and more recently through sector-wide workforce shortages.

The term “wait list” does not accurately describe the active nature of the support services that people are offered while they are being matched to a service provider. 1,169 people are in the process of being matched to service providers. While the process of matching occurs, information and referrals regarding alternative services are offered by the contracted Access Point Provider Ozcare, in an effort to provide appropriate and timely support. The Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (the department) is working closely with the QCSS providers to increase service capacity and this is resulting in a significant uplift in the process of matching applicants to services providers.