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IPSWICH HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE FUNDING INCREASED

Local Home and Community Care (HACC) services in Ipswich will receive more than \$10,000 in additional operating funding, Health Minister Gordon Nuttall announced today.

"The We Care Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service for Aged and Disabled organisation will receive \$5,000 in funding," Mr Nuttall said.

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said the funding would provide additional domestic assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the area.

"Domestic assistance includes help at home with cleaning, dishwashing, laundry, shopping and other activities that help people to remain living independently in their own homes," Ms Nolan said.

"The ALARA Association will receive \$5,098 to extend respite services to people with a disability. This will give their carers an opportunity to take a break from their caring responsibilities."

The funds are part of record funding of nearly \$250 million for HACC services around the state and recognise the number of frail aged people and younger people with a disability who receive support services at home.

Home and Community Care is a cost shared program provided by Queensland Health and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Last financial year, nearly 140,000 Queenslanders were provided with assistance through the HACC program, and the program has been allocated an additional \$23 million for this financial year.

Mr Nuttall said the increased funding to existing services included a 2.1 per cent increase to base funding and an increase in the Meals on Wheels funding.

"The record funding will also provide increased services Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander people," Mr Nuttall said.

"Support for carers has included an increase in in-home respite services.

"In addition, improvements to the quality of HACC services and the way people are assessed to receive a HACC service have also attracted additional funding," Mr Nuttall said.