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FUNDING FOR SEXUAL ABUSE COUNSELLING IN IPSWICH

The Department of Child Safety is seeking partners to provide extra counselling and therapeutic services for sexually abused children and young people in Ipswich, the Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan announced today.

Ms Nolan said the department had allocated \$600,000 over three years to deliver specialised sexual abuse services in the Ipswich area.

“The funding is part of \$2.4 million allocated over three years for sexual abuse services in high-need areas throughout Queensland, including Ipswich, and three other services in South-East Queensland and North Queensland.

Ms Nolan said the provision of specialised counselling and therapy was in response to recommendations in the Crime and Misconduct Commission’s report on foster care.

“This money will be used for specialist counselling and therapeutic services for children and young people in care who have been sexually abused or who engage in sexualised or early sexual offending behaviour,” Ms Nolan said.

“The services will receive \$200,000 per annum for three years and counselling will also be available to non-offending family members and carers.

“The Ipswich region was identified as a high-need area from departmental demand data and the existing level of funding for sexual abuse and related counselling services.”

Ms Nolan said the government planned to build an integrated service which could respond to the range of counselling and therapeutic needs of children and young people, their families and carers.

“Sexual abuse has social, emotional, and behavioural impacts that affect both the individual victims and their immediate family and the wider community.

“Significant additional funding over three years will enable the government and non-government sectors to work in partnership to build the community’s capacity to better respond to the needs of people affected by sexual abuse.”

Organisations have until Tuesday 13 June to submit a funding application.

A funding information paper, funding submission form and other related documentation is available on the Department of Child Safety web site at www.childsafety.qld.gov.au or by contacting the department’s Ipswich and Western Zonal Office on 4699 4255.