



RACHEL NOLAN MP

Member for Ipswich

Booval Professional Centre
125 Brisbane Rd BOOVAL

PO Box 98
BOOVAL Q 4304

Ph: 3202 3452
Fax: 3202 4778

Email:
ipswich@parliament.qld.gov.au

28 June 2006

EXTRA RESPITE GIVES IPSWICH CARERS A BREAK OVER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Queensland Government funding of \$11,210 for extra respite support in Ipswich will help relieve the stress of school holidays for people with a disability and their families.

The Member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan said he had been advised by the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Warren Pitt, that the funding was part of \$609,321 which would be distributed to respite organisations throughout the state, including this Ipswich service:

- Focal Extended Inc will receive \$11,210.

Ms Nolan said respite services played a crucial role in keeping families together.

“School holidays are a particularly stressful time for families caring for a child with a disability,” she said.

“Even a short period without the structured activity of a school can be a precursor to boredom and severely disruptive incidents for some children with autism or challenging behaviour.

“This can place additional financial pressure on families where both parents work and additional childcare is needed or one parent chooses to decrease their work hours.

“Respite maintains the capacity of families to care for their child by providing short-term or time-limited breaks for carers.”

Mr Pitt said people with a disability needed a suitable and safe place to stay and their carers needed a break from full-time caring.

“Respite can be provided in a number of ways including in the family home, at a community service, through host families or within the community,” he said.

“Whatever form it takes, respite provides a crucial break for families and carers, and can also provide opportunities for young people with a disability to learn and practise their life skills.”