



## **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

### **Member for Ipswich**

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Wednesday 5 July 2006

### **STATE FUNDS FOR SEXUAL ABUSE COUNSELLING IN IPSWICH**

The Department of Child Safety will provide \$200,000 in recurrent funding to Mercy Family services for counselling services for sexually abused children and young people in the Ipswich and Goodna areas.

The Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said a further one off payment of \$15,000 in 2006-07 had also been approved for the establishment of the service, which will provide counselling to children and young people in care and non-offending family members and carers.

The funding allocation is part of a \$2.4 million, three year Beattie Government funding program to help sexually abused children and young people in high-need areas of Queensland.

"This is only a portion of the funding the government allocates to child sexual abuse counselling services," Ms Nolan said.

"Therapeutic services capable of addressing many of the needs of children who have been sexually abused are also funded through Queensland Health and by the Department of Communities," she said.

The latest funding will enhance access to counselling for children in care who have been sexually abused or are engaging in sexualised or early sexual offending behaviour and their non-offending family members and/or carers.

Ms Nolan said Mercy Family Services would also provide counselling through an outreach component involving counselling in the homes of clients.

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

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