

14 July 2006

**\$1090 TO HELP IPSWICH COMMUNITIES  
TO CELEBRATE 21<sup>st</sup> SENIORS WEEK**

Queensland Government funding of \$1090 will help two of Ipswich's community groups to celebrate Seniors Week's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in August.

The Member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan, said she had been advised by the Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Warren Pitt, that the funding was part of \$122,797 in Seniors Week grants provided to 127 organisations throughout the state to promote activities that celebrated the positive contributions of older people.

Community organisations in Ipswich that received funding:

- Ipswich Community Aid Inc received \$560 for an intergenerational debate to be held between high school students and seniors in the Ipswich Shire on a topic of mutual interest that challenges the myths surrounding aging and promotes positive aging attitudes; and
- Seniorsnet Association Inc received \$530 for an open day which will include an opportunity to offer "hands on" experience with computers.

Ms Nolan said Seniors Week, which runs from 19-27 August, was a highlight of the year for many seniors, their families and friends.

"It's a great opportunity for everyone to participate in various community activities that celebrate the diversity of older people and promote healthy ageing," she said.

"Typical activities throughout the state include intergenerational art and sporting events, concerts, expos, dances, and Indigenous and multicultural events.

Mr Pitt said the theme of Seniors Week, *Ageing - Everybody's Doing It!*, was an apt description of the changing demographics in Queensland.

"Many of the younger Baby Boomers are turning 60 this year and there are increasing numbers of older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"Older people are expected to increase as a proportion of Queensland's population from 12.1 per cent in 2005 to more than 23 per cent in 2051."

Mr Pitt said the members of councils, seniors organisations and community groups were the people who made Seniors Week special and the Department of Communities was dedicated to supporting these groups in their planning.

The Queensland Seniors Council has also been funded to help plan and introduce significant regional events during Seniors Week.

"The Queensland Government wants to regenerate the aura of respect in which our older members of society were once held," Mr Pitt said.

"We all can generate respect by making an effort to join in as older people celebrate their vitality, and their love of life and their family."