

State Budget 2008–09

Department of Communities
and Disability Services Queensland

Agency Budget Highlights



Message from the Minister

I am delighted to commend the 2008–09 State Budget to you, as it will enable my diverse portfolio to continue focusing its efforts on providing quality services to meet the demands of vulnerable or disadvantaged Queenslanders across the state.

This Budget represents a well-considered and balanced approach to addressing growing demands for human services fuelled by our population growth, resources boom and ageing population.

For example, the Department of Communities features \$680.9 million in recurrent expenditure, which is an increase of \$84 million or 14 per cent more than last year's Budget.

This Budget will enable the department to continue its progress in building strong communities, where people feel safe, valued and empowered, regardless of their circumstances.

It means we can focus on the important areas such as early years initiatives, safe havens and youth justice demand management, all of which will help build better and safer futures for our young people.

The Budget also provides funding to target Indigenous services, to help us work in partnership to close the gap in life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Disability Services Queensland has received a total operational budget of \$1.235 billion, which represents an increase of \$152.8 million or 14 per cent more than last year's Budget.

The increased budget allocation will assist people with a disability to achieve positive long term outcomes, helping to make a real difference to their quality of life.

Amongst the priority areas this year is an expanded commitment to providing support to families and individuals, and responding quickly to the needs of people who are experiencing emergency or crisis situations.

This Budget will provide for a sharper focus on early intervention and prevention programs and services to help expand service capacity.

It is a Budget that continues to build on the success of a diverse range of initiatives funded last year, and means we can continue to work towards a better quality of life for all Queenslanders.

Lindy Nelson-Carr MP
Minister for Communities, Disability Services,
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships,
Multicultural Affairs, Seniors and Youth

“This Budget continues to deliver on the Queensland Government’s commitment to people with a disability, children and their families, and people who are experiencing hardship, economic or social disadvantage.”

Department of Communities

The department’s 2008–09 Budget will provide for \$680.9 million in recurrent expenditure, an increase of 14 per cent over the 2007–08 Budget.

The 2008–09 Budget features a \$72.6 million injection of new funding over four years. This comprises \$35.4 million recurrent and \$2 million non-recurrent funding and \$35.2 million capital funding.

Additional funding will be invested in the following initiatives for 2008–09:

Planning for early childhood reforms

- \$2 million in 2008–09 to fund the implementation of planned national early childhood development reforms.

Assistance for people who are homeless

- \$0.7 million recurrent funding augmented by \$2.9 million from funding identified by the department to provide emergency services and accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.

Building capacity to improve youth justice services

- \$3.8 million recurrent funding and \$16.4 million capital funding, as part of \$17.3 million recurrent and \$23.7 million capital over four years, to manage increased demand for youth justice services.

The funding increase for 2008–09 is comprised of:

- \$11.4 million capital funding to acquire land and undertake master planning to provide additional youth detention centre capacity.

Early Years Centres

The Queensland Government is investing in a positive future for young children and their families. A total of \$32 million over four years has been allocated to establish Early Years Centres at Nerang, Caboolture, Browns Plains and Cairns to support parents and carers in their nurturing role.



- \$2 million recurrent funding to improve the capacity of supervision and diversionary services for young people on youth justice orders; and
- \$1.8 million recurrent and \$5 million capital funding to improve case management of young people on youth justice orders through the Integrated Client Management System.

Maintaining infrastructure and assets

- \$2.4 million in recurrent funding and \$4.5 million in capital funding, as part of \$9.8 million recurrent funding over four years and \$6.7 million capital funding over two years to upgrade, repair and maintain community infrastructure and assets owned by the department.

Providing support for vulnerable young people in Indigenous communities

- \$5.6 million in recurrent funding will be provided over four years for the Safe Havens project. In addition, over three years from 2008–09, \$4.8 million capital funding is to support children and young people affected by family and domestic violence. This funding will complete the state's commitment with the Australian Government and ensure continued service delivery in Coen, Cherbourg, Mornington Island and Palm Island.

Seniors Legal and Support Service to be continued

- The department has also identified a further \$1.9 million to continue the Seniors Legal and Support Service pilot program.

Raising the profile of multiculturalism

- A further \$1 million will be provided in 2008–09 to continue to raise the profile of multiculturalism in Queensland through programs, events and activities.

Safe Havens initiative

The Safe Haven initiative is a support service now established in Cherbourg, Palm Island, Mornington Island and Coen.

It aims to tackle Indigenous family violence and child abuse through a range of community-based intervention and support services including community patrols and family counselling.



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Disability Services Queensland

Disability Services Queensland's 2008–09 Budget is \$1.235 billion in recurrent funding comprising \$825.1 million for disability services, \$386.3 million for home and community care and \$23.1 million for mental health services.

The department's 2008–09 Budget includes additional recurrent funding of \$21.5 million, \$5 million in non-recurrent funding and capital funding of \$2 million.

Funding services at key points in people's lives

- \$15 million recurrent and \$2 million capital funding in 2008–09 (\$60 million recurrent and \$8 million capital funding over four years) to deliver early intervention and prevention responses to achieve positive long-term outcomes for people with a disability and their families. This funding will target support at key transition points of an individual's life by expanding capacity in the following existing service areas: accommodation support; family support; post school services; support to young adults exiting the care of the State; and respite and day services.

Responding to personal emergencies and critical situations

- \$10 million funding in 2008–09 and \$5 million recurrent funding from 2009–2010 (\$25 million in funding over four years) to support people with a disability and their families who have experienced crisis situations.

Supporting mental health patients' transition back into the community

- \$1.5 million recurrent funding in 2008–09 (\$6 million in funding over four years) to support people with a psychiatric disability to transition from mental health acute and extended treatment facilities to sustainable community living through the Housing and Support Program.

Kathy's story

Kathy, a young woman whose life is filled with study, work and friends, is featured in the 2008 Share your Story calendar through which Queenslanders share their experience of living with a disability.

'I think that people with a disability have the same capacity to have a fulfilling life as everyone else,' Kathy says. 'I don't let my disability stand in the way of furthering my skills and abilities so that I can work to my best.'

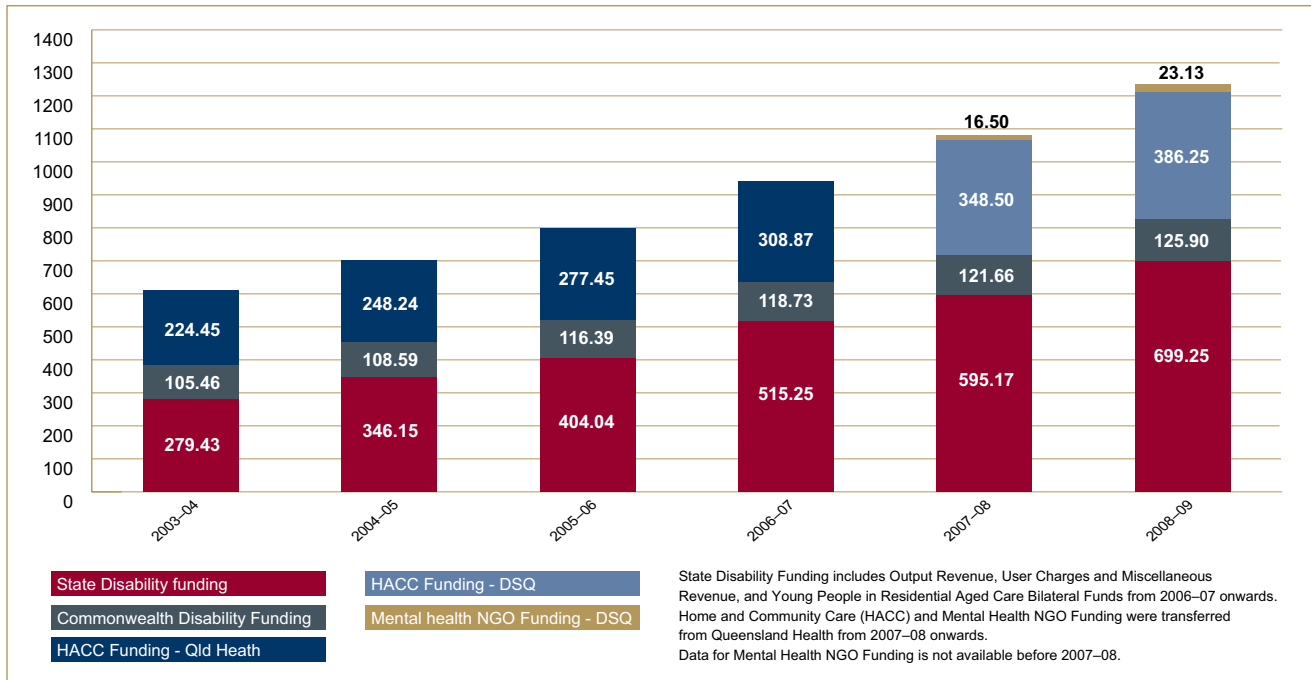


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Department of Communities and Disability Services Queensland

Disability Services Queensland
 State and Commonwealth Disability Funding and HACC and NGO Mental Health Funding
 2003–04 to 2008–09 (\$million)



Over the last five years the level of state funding for disability services has increased by \$419.8 million, an increase of 150.2 percent.



Queensland
 Government

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