

Media Release

Tuesday, 14 June 2016

Minister for Seniors Coralee O'Rourke

State Budget turns focus to age-friendly Queensland

The State Budget has positioned Queensland to become a more age-friendly community with new funding for a range of initiatives, including a new seniors innovation program.

The Palaszczuk Government will invest \$8.3 million for seniors over four years to deliver the new *Queensland: an age friendly community* strategy.

Seniors Minister Coralee O'Rourke said the strategy provided a framework to enable people of all ages to actively participate in community life.

"I'm delighted to announce \$1 million per year over three years commencing in 2017-18 will be provided to establish an innovative grant program - *Advancing Queensland: an age-friendly community*," Mrs O'Rourke said.

"This commitment will be used to seed-fund community initiatives which involve partnerships with local councils and other organisations to develop, implement and promote innovative age-friendly projects such as accessible and user-friendly spaces and places for older people in local communities," she said.

Minister O'Rourke said funding would also help implement recommendations from the Parliamentary Inquiry into the adequacy of existing financial protections for Queensland's seniors and tackle elder abuse.

"Funding of \$100,000 per year over four years from 2016-17 will help the Seniors Enquiry Line with providing advice and information on consumer protections and scams.

"We are also injecting \$900,000 per year over three years beginning in 2017-18 to expand the Seniors Legal and Support Services and the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit's services.

"This money will help support service delivery, particularly in regional and remote areas, and complements our new *There's no excuse for elder abuse* campaign launched last month.

"All of these initiatives form part of our age-friendly strategy, which recognises older people are valued and respected in their communities.

"This year's budget delivers funding for strategies to improve the social and economic participation of seniors in our communities, to deliver on our vision for an age-friendly Queensland."

More information is available at www.budget.qld.gov.au

Media Contact: Minister O'Rourke's office 0408 317 992