

From: LNP Media [LNP.Media@opposition.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 April 2010 11:56 AM
Subject: MEDIA RELEASE - Labor turns its back on children with autism

Attachments: 1237-2009.pdf

Andrew Cripps MP

Shadow Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs
Member for Hinchinbrook

14 April 2010

Labor turns its back on children with autism

The Bligh Labor Government's refusal to fund an autism support centre in Dalby is preventing local children from accessing valuable disability services, the LNP said today.

Shadow Minister for Disability Services Andrew Cripps asked Minister Palaszczuk in Parliament today why this project had been ignored since 2008, despite the community raising \$300,000 on their own to provide services for more than 120 local children.

"Once again the Minister failed to offer support for Waminda and claimed the issue was 'under consideration'," Mr Cripps said.

"This application has been under consideration since the organisation first approached the Government for support in early 2008.

"Waminda has done the hard work, raised money and set up services — but the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister continue to ignore this and knock them back.

"Just last week, the organisation received yet another refusal from the Premier — for nearly two and a half years the Government has ignored Waminda and the people of the Surat Basin region."

Mr Cripps said funding for the autism early intervention initiative had been static for three years at \$2 million a year.

"All research points to the need for early intervention services for children with autism spectrum disorders but this Government continues to show it is more interested in talking about autism than in actually helping communities deal with the problem," he said.

"The rate of diagnosis of autism is increasing rapidly, with a doubling of diagnosis in school aged and preschool aged children between 2000 and 2003.

"It's time the Bligh Labor Government got serious about providing early intervention services for Queensland children."

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NB – Attached QON 2009-1237 Mr Cripps to Minister for Disability Services RE: Early Intervention funding



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