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Andrew Cripps MP

Shadow Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs
Member for Hinchinbrook

2 June 2010

Labor's hollow boast on disability services

Labor's promise of a boost in disability funding in next week's budget was in stark contrast to its spending record, the LNP said today.

Shadow Minister for Disability Services Andrew Cripps said since 2002 Labor had consistently underspent the disability services budget by more than 50 per cent.

"This is a government which talks big but spends little when it comes to disability services," Mr Cripps said.

"Since 2002 the allocated disability services budget has been consistently underspent by up to 83 per cent. (see table below)

"Anna Bligh might be signalling an increase in next week's budget for disability services but on Labor's past record that will be all paper figures for no actual outcome.

"Her hollow boast that the disability services budget has increased 'five-fold' over the past decade is shown to be a lie by the consistent underspends of allocated funds.

"What she needs to guarantee is that those funds will actually be spent where and on what is needed.

"Grandstanding before the budget simply builds false hopes for those with desperately unfulfilled needs which Bligh and Labor constantly promise to meet but which they never fulfil.

"People with disabilities need to be treated much better than that."

Media contact: Andrew Cripps 0407 741 997

Disability services – infrastructure spending

Budget	Promised	Spent	Underspend	Per
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	(\$Million)	(\$Million)	(\$Million)	cent
2002-03	12.5	6.7	5.8	46.4
2003-04	22.4	8.2	14.2	63.4
2004-05	34.3	14.9	19.4	56.6
2005-06	40	6.8	33.2	83
2006-07	50	29	21	42
2007-08	64.7	47.3	17.4	57.7
2008-09	71.6	33 *	38.6	53.9
Total	295.5	145.9	149.6	51

*Estimate based on Budget Papers 2009-10, showing expenditure of \$20.622M and completed work of \$12M.