



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

MEALS ON WHEELS STILL NEEDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, has encouraged local communities to continue supporting local Meals on Wheels committees, following the announcement that they were to receive funding through the joint Commonwealth – State Home and Community Care program.

Mr Cripps said while the Tully, Mission Beach, Cardwell and Ingham Meals on Wheels committees had been offered funding to cover administration costs associated with the transition to a new national funding agreement, this funding did not cover operational costs.

“I would ask the very generous people who support local Meals on Wheels committees with donations of produce and groceries, cash donations and volunteering to continue to do so if they can, as this new government funding does not cover these costs” said Mr Cripps.

“There is only minimal funding for operational costs such as food, electricity, appliances and other equipment. Our hard working Meals on Wheels committees will continue to rely on the generosity of the local community to continue delivering this wonderful service” he said.

Mr Cripps said while the national partnership agreement transitional funding would be offered to Meals on Wheels committees, many smaller committees would not face the same transitional costs as larger HACC organisations, because of their volunteer based structure.

“The transitional funding can not be diverted to cover the operational costs of consumables or utilities for local Meals on Wheels committees. The donations and the volunteer hours will continue to be absolutely critical for this important local service to continue” said Mr Cripps.

“The volunteers who deliver Meals on Wheels in the Hinchinbrook electorate are wonderful people who are dedicated to supporting some of the neediest people in our community. I encourage people to continue to strongly support Meals on Wheels where possible” he said.

Contact:	Andrew Cripps MP Member for Hinchinbrook	Address: PO Box 1515 Ingham Qld 4850	Ph: 07 4776 1428 Fax: 07 4776 3503
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E-mail: Hinchinbrook@parliament.qld.gov.au
