



Hon. Karen Struthers MP
Member for Algester



**Minister for Community Services,
Housing and Minister for Women**

3 February 2012

More than \$22 million to strengthen Queensland families

Vulnerable families across Queensland will continue to receive help to stay together safely thanks to more than \$22 million in Bligh Government funding.

Speaking in Toowoomba, Community Services Minister Karen Struthers today announced the state-wide funding would help 66 services over the next three years work with families who need support to get back on track.

These organisations provide vital access to specialist services like counselling and community education to help families deal with issues and stand on their own feet," Ms Struthers said.

"The funding will specifically target families who face problems such as domestic and family violence, mental illness and abuse of drugs, alcohol or other substances.

Ms Struthers said the Bligh Government is committed to early intervention and prevention, building a brighter future for Queensland families.

"Ultimately it's about building safer communities," Ms Struthers said.

"I congratulate these organisations for their hard work supporting local children and families in need."

Member for Toowoomba North Kerry Shine welcomed the funding with three local services sharing in more than \$1.1 million over the next three years.

"For example, OzCare will receive \$548,007 over three years to work with Toowoomba families, offering counselling and parenting support through the Bush Connection Rural Families Support Service," Mr Shine said.

"Families have the opportunity to develop important skills like parenting and relationships.

"Help will also be accessible to families living in rural areas with Bush Connection Rural Families Support Service available online and over the phone.

"Supporting safe and caring communities is a core part of our *Toward Q2 Tomorrow's Queensland* target."

For more information on how the Queensland Government is helping communities visit www.communities.qld.gov.au

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