



Minister for Communities, Women and Youth  
Minister for Child Safety  
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Your reference: 10.4 Petitions  
Our reference: MO-16-0769; COM 03161-2016

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14 JUL 2016

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 15 June 2016 about petition 2598-2016 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 14 June 2016, requesting a two year extension of funding for a Generalist Counsellor (managed by Ravenshoe Community Centre (RCC)) to support the full recovery of survivors and other impacted community members in the aftermath of the Ravenshoe Café Explosion.

Following the tragic event at the Ravenshoe Café on 9 June 2015, the Queensland Government, through the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS), provided one-off funding to the RCC totalling \$145,000 for additional administrative support and a Generalist Counselling position for 12 months.

The department also provided \$76,264 to UnitingCare Community to deliver psychological first aid for Ravenshoe community members and \$94,534 to the Tablelands Regional Council for a Community Development officer to support the local community for 12 months.

Additionally, the department supported the Council in community recovery planning and coordinating the independent appeal distribution committee for dispersal of donated funds held by GIVIT. The Ravenshoe Appeal, run by GIVIT, received cash, goods and services to a value of \$893,255, including \$20,000 contributed by the Queensland Government,

One year on from the explosion, the trauma suffered by members of the Ravenshoe community is acknowledged. It is also recognised many community members have made positive steps towards recovery by discussing their issues and concerns with various support people, including the counsellor. Queensland Government departments continue to work closely with the Council, Chamber of Commerce and other key stakeholders to support the community rebuild its resilience.

Research has indicated it is not uncommon for issues of domestic and family violence to become more visible in communities that have experienced natural disasters or some other form of traumatic community event. The department has reached agreement with the Commonwealth Government's Department of Social Services to deliver a Local Domestic Violence Support Coordinator service in the Ravenshoe community. This service will work with women affected by domestic and family violence in the Ravenshoe community using a case management approach to respond to their safety and support needs.

The service will also build the capacity of RCC and similar services on the Atherton Tablelands (Mareeba, Atherton and Kuranda) to recognise and respond to people affected by domestic and family violence through the development of service delivery and referral protocols and through brokering training.

The Ravenshoe Explosion Counselling Service will be extended in the short term, to ensure that the remaining clients of the service can be seamlessly transitioned to the Local Support Coordinator where domestic and family violence may be an issue or to other relevant services if required.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this important issue with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Fentiman', written in a cursive style.

**Shannon Fentiman MP**  
**Minister for Communities, Women and Youth**  
**Minister for Child Safety**  
**Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence**