

MI120184

Mr N Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 14 May 2004 regarding Petition No's 314-04 and 316-04, received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly, which raised funding issues for the Mental Illness Fellowship North Queensland (MIFNQ). I apologise for the delay in responding.

Queensland Health provides integrated mental health services to the community via both acute and community settings. With respect to non-Government organisations, for the 2004/2005 financial year Queensland Health has allocated \$6.9 million in funding to a number of services across the State through the Mental Health Grants to Non-Government Organisations (MHGN) Program.

MIFNQ has been allocated \$296,726 for the 2004/2005 financial year through the MHGN Program to provide community education and support services to individuals with a mental illness, their families and carers. In previous years the Organisation was funded through the Commonwealth Government for the Help for Rural Caregivers of the Mentally Ill Program (HRCMIP). I am advised that this funding has now ceased and in order to remain within their existing allocated budget the organisation initiated change by discontinuing the HRCMIP.

The pressure to meet demand and address need is an issue across all health service organisations, from Health Service Districts to non-Government organisations to volunteer agencies. The issue of meeting the need is a challenge that Queensland Health must manage within a defined budget and with a perspective of a diverse population with a vast range of health needs across a geographically challenging state.

I trust the above information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**GORDON NUTTALL MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Member for Sandgate**