

September 5 2008

Heather Butler MP Member for Lyons

Speaking Out for People with Disabilities

Labor Member for Lyons Heather Butler today officially opened the 2008 annual Speak Out conference marking 21 years of its advocacy for people with disabilities and their families.

“This is a significant achievement and the Government acknowledges the vital role that Speak Out plays in supporting people with disabilities, their families and carers,” Ms Butler said.

Ms Butler provided an overview of the recently announced Disability Services Reform at the conference in Orford.

“The Government will continue to work in partnership with advocacy services, including Speak Out, to provide ongoing support to people with disabilities during the reform process.

“The Tasmanian Government in partnership with the Commonwealth is providing \$50 million over the next four years as part of reforms to disability services to deliver support for an anticipated additional 1000 people, an increase of 25 per cent on what we do now. “

“The Tasmanian Government acknowledges the important contribution that advocates make to the well-being of people with disabilities.”

“We will continue to work with people with disabilities and their families to make sure they are accessing the range of services and opportunities that are their right and achieving the outcomes that are their priorities.

“Our goal is to ensure that all Tasmanians regardless of their individual circumstances can participate in life to the greatest extent possible,” Ms Butler said.