

Question on Notice

No. 1003

Asked on 7 August 2007

Mrs Attwood asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) -

QUESTION: Will he provide an update on the establishment of Indigenous Knowledge Centres in Queensland since 2002 and how they are benefiting their local communities?

ANSWER:

1. Since 2002, 15 Indigenous Knowledge Centres (IKCs) have been established in regional Queensland. The State Library of Queensland has worked in partnership with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Councils to establish IKCs in:

- Cape York — Aurukun, Injinoo, Lockhart River, New Mapoon, Pormpuraaw and Wujal Wujal
- Torres Strait — Badu, Boigu, Dauan, Erub, Mabuiag, Poruma, Iama and Seisia
- Southern Queensland — Cherbourg

In addition, an IKC called *kuril dhagun* is now part of the new State Library at the Cultural Centre, South Bank as an outcome of the Millennium Arts Project. *kuril dhagun* provides a central point for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Brisbane and for the broader IKC network.

2. How are IKCs benefiting their local communities

In addition to offering library services to remote communities that have not had such a service, IKCs benefit their local communities by:

Promoting literacy and lifelong learning

- Providing access to books, magazines, CDs and DVDs, computer and internet services and offering innovative programs to support literacy, such as summer reading and homework clubs and movie evenings.
- Ensuring events are free and can involve anyone within the community. For example, the *Taking It On* initiative offered free computer and Internet training sessions which were attended by over 800 adults in 24 communities.

Preserving culture

- Through providing a community owned space and resources to support the sharing, recording and preservation of culture. For example a recording language project is underway on Mabuiag Island.

Providing opportunities for employment

- IKCs employ local people to ensure a locally relevant service and community involvement. A centre administrator is employed by the local Indigenous Council directly using Community Development Employment Program funding.

Promoting reconciliation

- *kuril dhagun* is a place where Aboriginal people, Torres Strait Islanders and the broader community can talk, discuss and learn. It is dedicated to different ways of seeing and preparing visitors to encounter the vibrancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture through language, experience, stories and images.