

Question on Notice
No. 1076
Asked on 14 October 2022

MR T WATTS ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

With reference to the Denise Kable Campus (DKC) in Toowoomba—

Will the Minister advise (a) from 2015 to 2022 (reported separately by year) how much State Government funding the campus has received, (b) from 2015 to 2022 (reported separately by year) what educational programs were available to disengaged youths through the DKC, (c) how much the new DKC facility at Clifford Park Special School cost, (d) when was it decided the DKC would not move into the new facility on Hursley Road and (e) where will all these programs be run out of?

ANSWER:

As the Member would be aware, since 2009 the Denise Kable Campus (DKC) was located at Centenary Heights State High School (SHS). In 2019–2020, enrolment growth and pressures on facilities at Centenary Heights SHS identified the need for the school to expand and for the DKC to relocate to an alternate site.

As an election commitment, a decision was made to construct a new facility at the Clifford Park Special School, which was selected due to the availability of land and its separate street frontage on Hursley Road, Toowoomba. This allowed for perimeter fencing of the facility to create a separate stand-alone facility. Construction commenced in June 2021.

(a) from 2015 to 2022 (reported separately by year) how much State Government funding the campus has received

State Government funding allocated to DKC in Toowoomba from 2015 to 2022 (reported separately by year) is provided in the table at **Attachment 1**.

While not a school, from 2015 to 2021, DKC provided program-based learning from the Centenary Heights SHS site. The site facility also hosted the Darling Downs South West Region's Behaviour Support Team.

(b) from 2015 to 2022 (reported separately by year) what educational programs were available to disengaged youths through the DKC

The majority of students participating in DKC programs were enrolled in the School of Distance Education with part-time attendance programs offered over three days per week. Students accessed individualised learning programs with a focus on extending numeracy, literacy, and personal and social capabilities.

(c) how much the new DKC facility at Clifford Park Special School cost

The total budget allocated for the construction of the DKC at Clifford Park Special School was \$10.3 million (including GST). The project reached practical completion on 19 September 2022.

d) when was it decided the DKC would not move into the new facility on Hursley Road and (e) where will all these programs be run out of?

From 2022, based on the feedback provided by principals during regional consultation throughout 2021, regional behaviour support services transitioned to an outreach model. Students with identified needs are being supported by regional behaviour support services within their own school and classroom context rather than attendance onsite at an alternate setting.

The new Denise Kable Youth Service facility is in the final fit-out stage with minor delays on completion of specialised fit-out and delivery of furnishings. Recruitment processes have commenced for key staff.

Negotiations with other agencies for integrated service delivery targeting supports for disengaged youth are underway with potential for first service delivery towards the end of 2022 or early 2023.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Operating Costs	\$112,406	\$120,028	\$138,065	\$130,602	\$151,072	\$166,818	\$170,799	\$163,304
Salaries	\$1,388,440	\$1,436,559	\$1,572,147	\$2,407,771	\$2,257,166	\$2,160,032	\$1,734,799	⁽¹⁾ \$417,148
Utilities	\$11,828	\$11,885	\$11,675	\$9,500	\$7,752	\$15,898	\$16,071	\$11,545
Infrastructure - Capital Works Program ⁽²⁾	\$0	\$0	\$10,737	\$6,814	\$37,438	\$1,021,879	\$7,928,072	\$412,611
Infrastructure – Maintenance	\$19,925	\$20,026	\$16,185	\$18,778	\$15,148	\$14,828	\$14,233	⁽³⁾ N/A
Total:	\$1,532,599	\$1,588,498	\$1,748,809	\$2,573,465	\$2,468,576	\$3,379,455	\$9,863,974	\$1,004,608

1. Salaries for 2015–2021 include the full cost of service delivery (teacher, teacher aides, administrative and project staff) plus ancillary staff salaries and wages to maintain of the facility. The decrease in 2022 reflects the changes in service delivery model, principal local decision to withdraw optional school contributions and unsuccessful recruitment for two regional positions.
2. Program expenditure includes all programs and all works such as audit and design fees, engineering fees, supply of equipment, housing-related costs, planning costs. Figures are excluding GST.
3. Maintenance budget allocated to Clifford Park Special School to support the Centre.