

Question on Notice

No. 551

Asked on Wednesday, 25 May 2022

MR S KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING, MINISTER FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to community support service centres, which provide crisis care in regional Queensland, and who are struggling due to increased demand on their services, exacerbated by affordable housing shortages and COVID-19 mandates and lockdowns—

Will the Minister outline what funding has been made available to community centres in the upcoming budget and if that funding has been increased from the previous budget?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Queensland Government will deliver a record investment in Neighbourhood and Community Centres across the state through the 2022-23 budget, delivering a \$115.8 million funding boost over the next four years.

The additional funding will include:

- \$54.56 million to uplift the minimum operating funding for all existing centres to \$230 000 per annum, plus a \$20,000 supplement for centres that do not operate out of Queensland Government owned premises;
- \$9.33 million for 20 Neighbourhood Community Connect Workers in areas of high need;
- \$39 million for new builds and significant redevelopments for neighbourhood and community centres in areas of high need;
- \$11.71 million for upgrades, repairs and maintenance of government owned properties; and
- \$1.2 million additional funding for a peak body to support the network of Neighbourhood and Community Centres across the state.

This is the biggest single increase in operating funding for the Neighbourhood and Community Centre sector, lifting the operating budget for centres from \$12.7 million in 2013-14 to \$18.1 million in 2021-22, and \$31.05 million in 2022-23.

The five Neighbourhood and Community Centres in the Hill electorate will collectively receive a \$543,960 increase in operational funding in 2022-23:

- \$103,499 additional funding for Better Together Community Support (Atherton),
- \$103,500 additional funding for Community Support Centre Innisfail,
- \$126,220 additional funding for ECHO Neighbourhood House (Malanda),
- \$103,498 additional funding for Ravenshoe Community Centre, and
- \$107 243 additional funding for Tully Support Centre.

In addition, in February 2022, the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy provided funding of \$2.54 million in one off grants of \$20 000 to all 127 state-funded Neighbourhood and Community Centres, in recognition of the increased costs and impacts of COVID-19 on their services.