

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 685**

**Asked on Thursday, 23 June 2022**

**MR J MCDONALD** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING, MINISTER FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide additional baseline funding to the Community Centres within the Lockyer State Electorate which are under extreme pressure to assist our community due to the cumulative effects of drought, COVID-19 and now floods?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

As announced in the State Budget on Tuesday, 21 June 2022, Queenslanders will now be able to access more services and supports at their local neighbourhood and community centres, as the Queensland Government will provide record investment towards these centres across the state through the 2022-23 budget, delivering a \$115.8 million funding boost over the next four years.

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.

In 2022-23, the Laidley Community Centre and Lockyer Information and Neighbourhood Centre in the Lockyer electorate will each receive an annual boost of more than \$100,000 to their operational funding.

In addition, Laidley Community Centre will receive \$6,000 in emergency relief funding to assist those experiencing immediate financial hardship, along with funds of nearly \$130,000 for a Community Connect Worker to facilitate support and referrals for individuals and families to specialist services.

Laidley Community Centre and Lockyer Information and Neighbourhood Centre continue to play a key role in supporting the local communities affected by recent disaster events. From February 2022 and continuing until 31 August 2022, funding for additional support for 20 hours per week has been allocated to both centres to provide advice, support and referrals.