

Question on Notice

No. 77

Asked on Wednesday, 22 February 2023

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 the Dimbulah Community Centre being currently excluded from the 127 State government-funded neighbourhood and community centres, despite being the only community centre based in the immediate area, offering services to the community—

Will the Minister commit to a review of the services provided to the community for inclusion to receive State Government community centre funding?

ANSWER:

The 2022-2023 State Budget included record investment of \$115.8 million to support the work of Neighbourhood and Community Centres, including \$51.8 million for the biggest ever uplift to base operational funding, and \$39 million in capital funding for the construction and redevelopment of Neighbourhood and Community Centres in areas of greatest need.

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy uses a consistent, evidence-informed approach to investing in new Neighbourhood and Community Centres to ensure that they are in locations that have the greatest level of need.

The Hill electorate receives a total of \$1.275 million per annum from the 2022-2023 Neighbourhood and Community Centre initiative budget, an increase of \$629 596 from 2021-2022. The funding is allocated to five Neighbourhood and Community Centres in the electorate, including Community Support Centre Innisfail, Better Together Community Support in Atherton, Tully Support Centre, ECHO Neighbourhood House in Malanda and Ravenshoe Community Centre.

The Atherton Neighbourhood and Community Centre is contracted by the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy to provide services in the Dimbulah area. The Queensland Government has committed \$1.907 million towards the redevelopment of the Atherton Neighbourhood and Community Centre, anticipated for completion in July 2023.

This redevelopment will enhance the existing support and services provided from the Centre that extend to the Dimbulah community by providing additional space and opportunities for community cooperation and activities. The new facility will also include a large community garden and a meeting space for community events with the goal of creating a one-stop community services precinct.

Additionally, the department also invests in the Mareeba Community Centre east of Dimbulah. The Mareeba Community Centre provides community-based activities and

information, advice and referral services together with access to emergency relief supports and a no interest loan scheme.