

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1216**  
**Asked on 11 December 2024**

**MR M BERKMAN** ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND THE ARTS (HON J LANGBROEK)

QUESTION:

With reference to the First Five Forever programs delivered by Queensland Councils with support from the State Library, which have recently been reduced across Brisbane Libraries as the Council has cut its funding contribution—

Will the Minister advise (a) if the government will urgently provide additional funding for the program to at least restore the children's literacy programs in Brisbane City Council libraries to November 2024 levels and (b) is the government considering increased ongoing funding for First Five Forever in the 2025-26 Budget?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

- a) Since its introduction in 2015, funding for the First 5 Forever program has been based on a co-investment model between the Queensland Government and local governments throughout Queensland. Public libraries are owned and operated by local governments which determine local priorities, delivery of services and programs.

Initially the \$5 million annual funding commitment for the First 5 Forever program was allocated to councils across the State based on population.

During 2018–19, additional considerations were included in funding allocations to better reflect the needs of libraries in remote and regional communities. As a result, a Brisbane City Council funding reduction by the former Labor Government was partially applied in that financial year and fully applied from 2019–20 with annual funding levels shifting from \$1.006 million to \$711,877. Some other regional councils received increased funding and/or additional access to support through the State Library of Queensland.

The 2024–25 Queensland Government funding allocation for Brisbane City Council was set by the former Labor Government and has not changed.

Future funding decisions will be subject to the usual budget processes and I look forward to engaging with Local Governments across Queensland regarding this program.

- b) I am looking forward to working with local governments throughout Queensland including Brisbane City Council around opportunities to ensure the First 5 Forever program continues to deliver strong early literacy foundations for all Queensland children aged 0–5 years.