

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs. Finocchiaro to the Minister for Workforce Training

CDU Darwin CBD Student Hub

1. Please advise how much money has been allocated in Budget 2018-19 for the CDU hub?

There is no budget allocated for the Darwin Student Hub (the Hub) in 2018-19.

The Hub is a pilot project that the NT Government has partnered with Charles Darwin University to deliver. The Hub is open to all students, with a focus on international students from any provider. The NT Government has made a prior contribution to the costs of conducting the pilot program. The pilot program will be evaluated to assess its effectiveness and options for ongoing operations.

2. How many students will use this facility in Darwin CBD in calendar year 2018?

As the Hub is a pilot project, data is being collected throughout the year. Visitor data will be examined by country of origin and gender to ensure activities target all parts of the student community.

3. How many students have used the hub in Financial Year 2017/18?

Since opening in February 2018, the Hub has had around 150 students drop in or participate in a range of events and activities held out of the Hub.

4. What business case has been conducted on this investment?

The Hub is a high level action from the Economic Development Framework. It was established in response to direct feedback from the education sector, and particularly the providers of international education and training, most of whom are small to medium sized enterprises. The Hub, and the events and activities which run out of it, are focused on improving the student experience of Darwin and their experiences outside the classroom. A good student experience is a key factor in recruiting students from overseas.

The Northern Territory Government has entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth to work together to create a City Deal for Darwin that will drive investment and make life better for residents, business and the Northern Territory. The Hub is also part of the Territory Government's commitment towards the revitalisation of the Darwin CBD, including key projects such as bringing students into the CBD.

5. What research has been done in relation to this investment?

Student hubs have been established in other jurisdictions and desktop research was undertaken into their activities and communications to inform the establishment of the Hub. In addition, visits were undertaken to the Brisbane and Melbourne hubs as part of other business in those cities.

6. Will any research conducted in relation to the student hub be made public?

A final report on the pilot project of the Hub is due by 31 December 2018. This report will inform future funding decisions, and the decision with reasons will be made public.

7. If not, why not?

Refer to answer outlined in question 6.