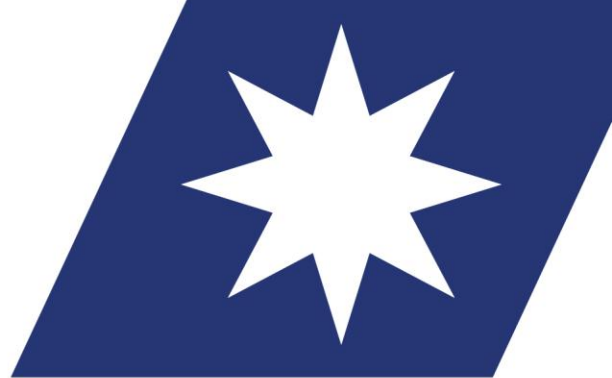


SHANE KNUTH

Katter's Australian Party

Member for Hill



MEDIA RELEASE

June 30, 2022

Community centres celebrating

Five local neighbourhood and community organisations across the Hill Electorate are celebrating after an increase of almost double their annual funding was recently announced.

Member for Hill Shane Knuth said community centres were a vital part of every town as it helped to assist those experiencing domestic and family violence, people at risk of experiencing homelessness, those experiencing social isolation and loneliness, individuals with disabilities, people impacted by disasters and families in financial stress.

“Over the last few years, we have seen more and more people seeking assistance with the price of living and housing continuing to rise,” Mr Knuth said.

“I have been in a number of meetings with community organisations, non-for-profits and the Minister for housing over the past two years advocating for extra funding to help with homelessness and social services.

“While it is great to see these centres receive much needed extra funding, there is still much more that needs to be done in Far North Queensland.

“We urgently need more accommodation for those at risk, affordable housing and access to cheaper fuel and energy.”

Echo Empowering Services CEO Donna Leigh said the funding couldn't have come at a better time.

“This has been an accumulation of many years of organisation's like ECHO advocating for greater funding to help provide a neighbourhood centre like ours for our local community to utilise,” Ms Leigh said.

“I would personally like to thank Shane for his continued support for ECHO Empowering Services and for advocating so strongly for us in Parliament recently.

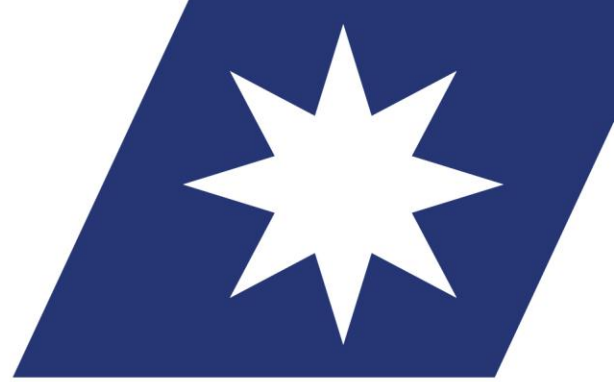
“This increase in funding will help support many families in our local region who are struggling to make ends meet in the current economic climate.

“The cost of living has forced families to seek help from our Neighbourhood House for services such as but not limited to; food relief, fuel relief, helping families keep children attending school, transport to essential services and warm clothing during winter.”

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MEDIA RELEASE

Better Together Community Support – an increase of \$103,499 per annum
Community Support Centre Innisfail - an increase of \$103,500 per annum
Eacham Community Help Organisation Inc - an increase of \$126,220 per annum²
Ravenshoe Community Centre Inc - an increase of \$103,498 per annum
Tully Support Centre Inc - an increase of \$107,243 per annum

CAPTION: ECHO Empowering Services CEO Donna Leigh, Vice president of Management Committee Del Waters and Member for Hill Shane Knuth out the front of ECHO in Malanda.
PHOTO: Supplied

-ENDS-

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