

MEDIA STATEMENT

7 JUNE 2019

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

2019 Queensland Floods Special Circumstances Funding

"We are very grateful to the Federal Government. Without this funding, Tec-NQ would be unable to sustain boarding for its 26 regional students" reports Tec-NQ CEO, Julie Hyde in response to today's Federal Government announcement.

Tec-NQ is one of 12 schools in the Townsville region set to receive funding from the Federal Government Special Circumstance funding following the floods in February.

Tec-NQ was heavily impacted by the floods. "We lost our entire boarding facility. Our students lost both their home and their belongings. It was devastating."

"I'd like to thank the Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ), Isolated Children's Parents Association (ICPA) and the Australian Boarding School Association (ASBA) supporting for our application for funding. Shari Armistead from ISQ provided tireless support both during and after the floods to ensure our situation received the attention and support it deserved."

Tec-NQ's strong focus on the trades and technical careers offers regional students an invaluable alternative to more tertiary focussed boarding schools.

Boarding students were evacuated from the Bowen Road facility on Friday, the 1st of February as state schools closed across the region. Relocated to the main training facility, students were supervised by boarding staff through the weekend as they were joined by more Tec-NQ staff who lost power or were evacuated from their homes due to flooding.

"We knew as we watched the drone footage released following the flood that the facility had been inundated." Julie and her team worked quickly to secure a lease on an alternative facility in North Ward. "Our entire focus was to minimise disruption to the students."

While Tec-NQ was fortunate to secure a leased facility following the floods, the unplanned lease has added significant pressure to the business as renovations were needed to ensure the ongoing safety and comfort of boarders were met. It's estimated that total cost of reaccommodating students and rebuilding a new facility will reach \$7 million.

Local Member Phil Thompson met with management team personally on Tuesday to advise that their funding request was successful. "Tec-NQ is one of Townsville's best kept secrets

Delivering Quality Trades Training

and they need our support” was the message he shared with Federal Education Minister, Dan Tehan.

“We currently have 24 regional boarding applications sitting with our enrolments team awaiting approval for our July Tec-Prep intake. Today’s announcement ensures we are in a financial position to release their letters of offer.”

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