



Our wellbeing

Park
Orchards
Community
House

Phone 9876 4381

Park Orchards Community

House and Learning Centre

Request of Government

We are calling on the Federal and State Government for \$5 million+ in funding as a contribution to a new building for the Park Orchards Community House and Learning Centre.

The problem

- ▶ The current Park Orchards Community House and Learning Centre building is at the end of its life, is not accessible for people with disabilities, and it is situated on a steep slope.
- ▶ The building, located at 572 Park Road in Park Orchards, is not big enough to cater for the services of the community house, which is currently spread across five different venues.
- ▶ Currently 47% of the centre's programs must be delivered elsewhere due to the room size restrictions and accessibility issues with the current building.
- ▶ Council recently purchased the land adjacent to the existing Community House with plans to construct a new building across both sites to accommodate the Community House. The new building has an estimated construction cost of around \$14 million.
- ▶ The development of a new community house was identified as a high priority in Council's Community Infrastructure Plan.
- ▶ Neighbourhood/community houses are a shared responsibility with the State Government and we have already demonstrated our commitment to this new building by purchasing the land for a new community house.
- ▶ Without a funding contribution, the new building cannot proceed. The current building is in poor shape (needing restumping and major structural repairs) and is at risk of becoming unusable, which could disadvantage hundreds of local residents and leaving this highly valued service without a home.

- ▶ The current building is on Crown land and with the new Council-owned site adjacent, there is an opportunity to utilise the Crown land site for much needed parking.

The Park Orchards Community House and Learning Centre is a highly successful service, engaging more than 1,200 individuals each week. Their programs target all ages, and 42 different birth countries are represented. The programs span health and wellbeing activities, specialist programs for women and disadvantaged, pre-employment training and social connections activities.

The solution

- ▶ Funding of \$5million+ to contribute to the construction cost of a new building for the Park Orchards Community House and Learning Centre.
- ▶ We will allocate \$100,000 for design of the new building in 2025/26 and a further \$100,000 in 2026/27. From this point, the construction of the project is unfunded. A co-contribution is required from State and Federal sources to enable the project to proceed.

Project benefits

- ▶ Park Orchards has a highly active and connected community, and the Community House will soon not be able to provide even basic services, as the currently building is at the end of its life and not large enough or accessible for programs.
- ▶ Funding will deliver a new centre at the heart of the community in Park Orchards allowing the Community House to continue offering a diverse range of services in response to significant community demand.
- ▶ The current building does not meet any standards for disability access and a new building will cater for those with mobility difficulties.

Project contact

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