



MEDIA STATEMENT

RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



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YOUTH CENTRE WINS FUNDING BATTLE

Local Member for West Swan Rita Saffioti has paid tribute to the people behind the Dungeon Youth Centre for finally gaining appropriate recurrent funding that will see the organisation increase the benefits it provides to the Ballajura community.

After a time consuming battle, recurrent funding from the Department for Child Protection towards the operation of the Dungeon will increase by \$47,000 to \$83,000 a year.

Ms Saffioti said this was a fantastic achievement for the organisation which would enhance the overall funding opportunities for the Dungeon.

“With this additional funding the Dungeon can now move forward and hopefully employ an officer to oversee the overall running of the service,” she said.

“Currently the youth workers have had to pick up a lot of administrative tasks or it has been left to a handful of dedicated volunteers.”

Ms Saffioti took up the funding battle to the State Government, which included having questions asked in Parliament and lobbying the Premier and Minister for Youth.

In February, at the turning-of-the-sod ceremony for the new facility, Ms Saffioti stepped up her call for an increase in funding to the Dungeon Youth Centre.

At the time Ms Saffioti said with the impending relocation to a more prominent setting and larger facility, plus the increase in workload, the Dungeon required an increase to its core funding from the State Government.

“Dungeon staff are now attracting referral work from other organisations and schools and need extra funding to help cope with the workload,” she said.

Youth Service Manager Daria Mirkovic said the additional funding was great news and would be put to good use.

“The additional money will enable our service to continue to provide the drop in and program aspect of the Dungeon and will ensure that the doors will always be open regardless,” she said.

“Staff will be able to increase opening times and provide more programs for young people.”

Ms Mirkovic said the Dungeon was hopeful it would receive an additional grant through the Social Innovations program, allowing the Dungeon to employ an additional four staff, including a full-time Chief Executive Officer.

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