

# CONSTITUENT QUESTION

## House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Peter George MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Jo Palmer MLC  
Minister for Education

### QUESTION:

Kingston Learning Centre

My question comes from U3A students in Kingston frustrated by a lack of communication from your office regarding access to the Learning Centre at the old Kingston Primary School. This space was used by U3A and others for 25 years until an isolated safety incident last November led to a maze of fencing, making access to C Block difficult or, indeed, impossible. A promise was made to reopen C Block by 1 May this year, but the key issue for U3A is whether parking and pedestrian access across the grassed area leading to the entry way will be restored. Minister, please provide a clear timeline for when appropriate access to this building will be restored so that community organisations can make plans for future classes and learners can once again enjoy the space as it was intended.

### ANSWER:

I thank you for your question on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April.

The Kingston Learning Centre is an important space for community groups including the U3A, and is highly regarded by the local community. Unfortunately, the centre's carpark had to be closed for several weeks in 2025 following a safety incident where a member of the public had a serious fall on the uneven carpark surface. Two of the four KLC buildings (Blocks C and D) were also closed due to pedestrian access issues.

I have had correspondence from a number of community members in relation to this matter, which I have responded to. I am also advised that Libraries Tasmania has provided regular community updates, including the 13<sup>th</sup> April which advised that bookings for Block C were now being taken.

In relation to Block C, I understand it re-opened on 1 May and U3A classes are able to return to this building, after being temporarily relocated in term one to Blocks A and B.

Reference was made to the grassed area - it is no longer able to be used for overflow parking due to safety concerns. Given concerns expressed by community members I visited the site myself in November last year. I observed that the grassed area sits at the bottom of a sloping site making it more susceptible to water and the ground becoming slippery in wet weather. The other factor is parking on the grass would require walking across the damaged part of the driveway, to reach the buildings, further increasing risk.

That is why works have occurred to install fencing to clearly separate car parking and pedestrian areas. A level pedestrian footpath to Block C has also been created, improving safety and wheelchair accessibility.

**APPROVED**



Hon Jo Palmer MLC

**Minister for Education**

Date: 4 May 2026