

Mole Creek Access Centre

Ms Butler question to MINISTER for EDUCATION, and MINISTER for INNOVATION, SCIENCE and the DIGITAL ECONOMY

My question is from Todd of Mole Creek: for the past 14 months, the Mole Creek Online Access Centre has aimed to provide a five-day-a-week operation that has been wholly run by volunteers, with much thanks going to the Mole Creek Progress Association for taking us under their wing for insurance coverage and generously providing space in their community building. Under our own steam, despite many challenges, our centre has continued to push on and thrive. We have a great team, good local support and plan to further develop our services to improve rural digital literacy in the region.

Without this vital facility, townsfolk have to travel long round-trip distances to access equivalent services elsewhere. Can the Minister outline future funding for digital access in rural Tasmania? Is the existing digital grant program to be further extended? Has the government now completed its digital services review, and decided upon a replacement funding framework with the existing online access centres continuing to provide a role going forward?