

St Helens Online Access Centre – Closure

Ms BUTLER question to MINISTER for EDUCATION

My question is from a group of St Helens residents. The St Helens Online Access Centre (OAC) will close as of the end of June due to your government's budget cuts. The service is essential for the community and only costs the government a lousy \$25,000 a year. The OAC is a vital service to that community and, like libraries, the OAC offers digital community support, assisting people one-on-one in real time with government departments such as MyGov, Centrelink, banks and numerous other functions; everything is now online. With an average of 6516 interactions per year with two-thirds of users aged over 65, without this service, many residents simply will not cope. The St Helens OAC staff volunteers are outstanding at what they do. Why did you decide to stop funding this St Helens OAC?