

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Brian Mitchell MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education

QUESTION:

My constituency question is from Kylie Reardon, chair of the Dodges Ferry Primary School Association.

Minister, Ms Reardon wrote to you on 26 May outlining the association's grave fears for the future of out-of-school-hours care at Dodges Ferry Primary School. The school is getting a long-awaited \$25 million upgrade but it's a tight envelope and the association was dismayed to see no provision made in the Budget to upgrade Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) facilities.

The minister may recall Ms Reardon sent him a letter that said:

'Current OSHC facilities are inadequate, not fit-for-purpose and cannot accommodate current, let alone future, demand with a significant waitlist already in place.'

With OSHC at Dodges Ferry critical for parent workforce participation, will the government commit to ensuring the school redevelopment adequately provides what is required for current and future OSHC needs at the school?

ANSWER:

I thank Ms Reardon for her question.

I recently wrote to Ms Reardon to share that, following completion of the second stage of the Tasmanian Government's \$10 million OSHC program process, Dodges Ferry Primary School and Scottsdale Primary School have been successful in securing funding through the OSHC program.

Dodges Ferry Primary School is expected to receive an estimated \$1.5 million to deliver an additional 15 Outside School Hour Care (OSHC) places at the school. Construction is expected to begin in 2027.

Please note the Budget information outlining our government's clear commitment to OSHC, can be found on page 168 (Chapter 7) of Budget Paper 1:

<https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/budget-and-financial-management/2026-27-tasmanian-budget>

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jo Palmer". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Jo" and the last name "Palmer" clearly legible.

Hon Jo Palmer MLC

Minister for Education

Date: 3 August 2026