

DECISION NO.

CABINET MINUTE

DECISION NO.

BRISBANE, 11 / 3 / 19 85

45536

CIRCULATION RECORD

SUBJECT: Support for the Uniting Church's Proposal to

Establish a Student Hostel in Mount Isa.

(Submission No. 40980)

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Mr. Powell

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CABINET SUBMISSION NO. 40980

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Copy No. _____

Brisbane, 11th March, 1985

Decision No. 45536

Submission No. 40980

TITLE: Support for the Uniting Church's
Proposal to Establish a Student
Hostel in Mount Isa.

CABINET decided:-

1. That the State Government's support for the proposal from the Uniting Church's National Mission Frontier Services for the establishment of a student hostel in Mount Isa be conveyed to the relevant Commonwealth authorities.
2. That should the proposed hostel be established, it be granted approved status, and the Uniting Church's National Mission Frontier Services, and the proposed local board of management, be recognised as bodies eligible for State Government assistance to student hostels.

CIRCULATION: Department of Education and copy to Minister.
Premier's Department and copy to Premier and Treasurer.
Treasury Department and copy to Deputy Premier and
Minister Assisting the Treasurer.
Department of Local Government and copy to Minister.
All other Ministers for perusal and return.

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Adams
Secretary to Cabinet.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

40980

SUBMISSION NO. _____
COPY NO. 21

FOR CABINET

Support for the Uniting Church's Proposal to
Establish a Student Hostel in Mt Isa

1. A request has been received from the General Secretary of the Uniting Church's National Mission Frontier Services (the Rev. M.J.L. Griffiths, M.B.E.) for support for a proposal for the establishment of a student hostel in Mt Isa. This proposal results from the efforts of community leaders in Mt Isa and the surrounding shires, who were concerned that children living in isolated circumstances in the North West whose parents could not afford to send them to boarding schools, or who were reluctant to do so because of the distances involved, were being deprived of access to secondary education.
2. Several meetings were held in Mt Isa during 1983 and 1984 to discuss the feasibility of the establishment of a student hostel to cater for these children. Subsequently, the Uniting Church's National Mission Frontier Services organization was asked to develop a specific proposal, and to assist in the establishment of the hostel, and in its initial development and management. Ultimately, it is envisaged that the hostel will be administered by a local board of management, in whom the hostel properties will be vested.
3. The Uniting Church's National Mission Frontier Services organization has considerable, and very successful, experience in the operation of student hostels throughout Australia, and currently operates hostels at Coen, Normanton and Atherton in this State. Clearly, it was on the basis of this successful experience that the organization was requested to accept responsibility for the carriage of the Mt Isa proposal.
4. The proposal for Mt Isa envisages a hostel comprising a cluster of "family group" homes, together with ancillary facilities, such as a special study centre, catering for some 50 students.

Negotiations are presently in hand for the lease of a suitable site close to the Kalkadoon State High School with which it is intended that the hostel will have a special relationship. The Mt Isa City Council has indicated its approval for the use of this site for the construction of a student hostel.

Two houses from the Gunpowder copper mine site have been obtained at minimal cost, and are to be relocated and modified to provide the first "family group" home for up to twelve children and a married couple.

5. The Uniting Church's National Mission Frontier Services intends to seek financial support for the project from the Commonwealth Schools Commission, in the form of
 - (a) a capital grant to assist with the establishment of the first "family group" home; and
 - (b) recurrent funding for a staff member, who would have responsibility for the special educational needs of the students resident in the hostel.

My support for this submission has been requested.

6. Officers of my Department have discussed the details of the proposal with the Rev. M.J.L. Griffiths, and members of my Ministerial Advisory Committee on Distance Education met with members of the local planning committee in Mt Isa last year to discuss the feasibility and viability of the proposed hostel. My Ministerial Advisory Committee on Distance Education has also now considered the detailed proposal put forward by the Uniting Church.
7. There is general agreement among members of my Ministerial Advisory Committee on Distance Education and officers of my Department that the proposed student hostel would meet a real need in the North West, and that the present proposal has been carefully developed. The Uniting Church's National Mission Frontier Services has the demonstrated capacity to establish and initially operate the hostel, and to arrange for an appropriately constituted local board of management to assume responsibility for its operation in the longer term. Moreover, the Uniting Church is prepared to underwrite the operations of the hostel in its developmental stages.
8. In my opinion, should the proposed student hostel be established in Mt Isa, it would meet a clearly established, ongoing regional need, and it would have good prospects for economic viability in both the short and long term. It would also meet the basic conditions under which student hostels may be granted approved status, and hence be eligible for assistance from the State Government. Those basic conditions are that the student hostel under consideration:
 - (a) has been established to cater for primary and/or secondary school students;
 - (b) is conducted by a recognised non-profit organisation and has a responsible Board of Management; and
 - (c) is registered with the Local Authority which has responsibility for declaring its accommodation and facilities satisfactory.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT

- (a) the State Government's support for the proposal from the Uniting Church's National Mission Frontier Services for the establishment of a student hostel in Mt Isa be conveyed to the relevant Commonwealth authorities; and
- (b) should the proposed hostel be established, it be granted approved status, and the Uniting Church's National Mission Frontier Services, and the proposed local board of management, be recognised as bodies eligible for State Government assistance to student hostels.

LIN POWELL M.L.A.
Minister for Education

BRISBANE

8 March, 1985