

Minister for Education
Minister for Disability Services
Deputy Leader in the Legislative Council

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17 July 2024



Ms Jen Butler MP
Labor Member for Lyons
Email c/o Clerk of the Assembly: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Butler *Jen*

Thank you for your Constituent Question on Wednesday, 19 June 2024, asked as follows:

Is the Minister aware that the Online Access Centre in Glamorgan-Spring Bay has recently closed?

Can the Minister please outline the reason for the closure; advise whether the closure will be permanent and outline what steps the Government took to prevent the closure?

Given the funding arrangements for all Online Access Centres expires in June 2025, can the Minister provide a guarantee to regional communities that no more of these Online Access Centres will close?

I am pleased to provide the following response:

- Glamorgan-Spring Bay Online Access Centre advised Libraries Tasmania of its voluntary closure due to its inability to find appropriate staff to operate the service.
- This closure was not funding related.
- All Online Access Centres are funded appropriately for their work through to 30 June 2025, via Digital Connections Grants.
- For your information, the Tasmanian Liberal Government is planning to undertake an independent review of investment in digital inclusion programs including the Digital Connections Grants, to be completed before the end of 2024.
- Future funding for Online Access Centres will be explored pending the outcome of the review.

Yours sincerely

Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education