

PORTFOLIO REPORTS - STATE COUNCIL

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION REPORT

Elize Scheepers – Portfolio Holder, March 2019

On 4 September 2018 the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack announced an \$8.7 million grant from the Federal Government to refurbish Moora Residential College. The WA State Government has committed their support with ongoing recurrent funding to keep the Residential College open and operating to standard. Final draft plans for the construction of new student accommodation and facilities have been presented to the Moora Shire. Construction is due to commence in September 2019 with a planned build time of 12 months. Tracey Errington and Julie Walsh were recognised by the Moora community for their tireless campaign to save Moora Residential College from closure. Tracey was awarded the Shire of Moora 2019 Rotary Australia Day Award. Julie Walsh was a nominee for this prestigious award.

The Department of Education have provided funding through a targeted initiative and appointed seven Aboriginal Islander Education Officers (AIEOs) at Residential Colleges in WA who accommodate a significant number of Aboriginal students. These include Broome, Esperance, Geraldton and Albany. They have also provided funding for additional educational assistants and AIEOs to schools.

Student numbers in Residential Colleges have fallen a further 80 places from 593 in 2017 to 513 in 2019. Total student numbers in the nine Residential Colleges as follows:

Residential College	Occupancy 2018	Occupancy 2019
Albany	69	66
Broome	99	81
City Beach	54	56
Esperance	87	83
Geraldton	55	62
Merredin	37	37
Moora	26	26
Narrogin	92	93
Northam	13	9
TOTAL	532	513

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/residential-colleges>

Curtin University have handed over their accommodation to a third party – UniLodge. This has seen an increase in weekly rental costs – students are now paying from \$221/week, a 30% increase from \$190 paid in 2018. Most of the students currently using the campus accommodation are from regional WA.

Campus Perth is a new student accommodation facility situated in the Northbridge area of Perth CBD, which opened in January 2019. It has 324 rooms with 726 beds and 3600m² of communal space. Students aged 17+ who are enrolled in a Perth university, vocational college, English school or registered training provider may use this facility. 17-year-old students are placed together and supervised. Accommodation prices, at the time of compiling this report, range from \$250 to \$335 per week depending on room type.

Regional students moving to Perth to complete their Post Compulsory studies are faced with a multitude of challenges. For those students looking at renting it is imperative that a Property Condition Report (PCR) is given to them by the agent when the key is handed over. There are seven days for them to go through the property with

a fine-tooth comb. The state of the house on arrival is to be written on this list. Photos of each imperfection must accompany this form back to the agent, preferably by email – where they then have documented evidence.

When looking for a house to rent, having NBN already installed eases many hours of anxiety. This will ensure they can use the internet to complete assignments almost immediately after signing up a service provider. Should there not be NBN please make them aware that “Unlimited” relates to **data**, not speed. Our regional school leavers may get sucked into a cheap unlimited data plan finding out later it is most probably only 12mbps. Ideally, they want at least 25mbps, probably 50mbps speed plan.

