

Accommodation fills up as young people catch on to benefit

Students flock to new purpose-built homes

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IT IS not often students and landlords see eye to eye but an Ipswich development is providing everything budding scholars need under one roof.

Ipswich students are catching onto the all-bills-inclusive rent at UniRez on Salisbury Rd, which is also breaking stereotypes once held by property investors.

UniRez opened three years ago and was bought by Malaysian investors just over a year ago.

The \$12 million development reached full capacity for the first time this week, with more students on the waiting list.

It houses 128 students who pay at most \$150 a week, including all internet and electricity.

Best Management Group managing director David Lateral said UniRez proved the stereotype that student accommodation was only viable for nine months a year was no longer true.

"They come in this time of the year, but there is a bit of a myth in the university accommodation game that it is only nine months a year," he said.

"That myth is true on campus, but when they are off campus they can stay here and get a good quality of life.

"The accommodation is brand new, purpose built, fully furnished with every modern amenity and offered at one fixed rental price.

"Most of our tenants are UQ students but we have also attracted students attending Bremer TAFE and some other



HOME SWEET HOME: Enjoying life in UniRez student accommodation are (from left) Allyssa Male, Lane Dudman, Ashleigh Wilmon and Aleshia Kitchener.

Photo: Sarah Harvey

specialised courses locally," he said.

Aleshia Kitchener studies on the north side of Brisbane but found the accommodation to be worth the extended daily commute.

"Even if you don't go to UQ, it is easy to get to transport and you don't have all the difficulties you have in trying to get the internet and electricity when you are in a

house of your own," she said.

Ms Kitchener said financially it was about the same in rent to what her friends were paying.

"But you just have to pay the one thing and you can forget about everything else," she said.

Ipswich Chamber of Commerce president Brett Kitching said the student population's disposable income was a significant contribution to the city's economy.

STUDENT LIFE

■ UQ Ipswich campus has 2000 students enrolled for 2012.

■ USQ Springfield campus expects to have 1800 enrolled students by year's end.

"With any city with a university students are an important part of the economy, not just with the rental, food and living expenses but they are leaders in differing trades and vocations," he said.

New police levels will keep pace with state's growth

A POLITICAL pledge of 1100 new officers means Queensland's police numbers will keep pace with the state's growing population, Commissioner Bob Atkinson says.

The state's top cop yesterday met with Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney to discuss how and when

the force would acquire its new frontline officers.

During the election campaign the Liberal National Party pledged 1100 new police over four years at a cost of \$275 million. It also promised to move 200 desk officers back into frontline policing.

The LNP also promised to spend up to \$18 million over four years on two police helicopters.

The LNP will provide ongoing funding for the Gold Coast police chopper, and a second helicopter will be added in the south-east by 2014/15.

"Our biggest challenge is just

keeping pace with growth and demand, and what this should enable us to do is keep up with demand and to be able to plan into the future," Commissioner Atkinson said.

Mr Seeney said he would meet with the police union this week.

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