History

The Denise Kable Campus is named in honour of an inspirational teacher who transferred into the Toowoomba District from the Warwick District, and began working at Toowoomba West Special School in June of 1985. Denise had a passion for teaching children who had special needs or some form of disability. She firmly believed that these students would better learn the life skills necessary for more independent adult lives if the teaching and learning was conducted in a real life setting.

She therefore set about convincing the Education Department that an ordinary house set in the community would best meet this need. At the time, 221A Hume Street, Toowoomba was available, and Denise was given permission to use the furnishings and equipment from the residential section of the School for The Deaf at Buranda in Brisbane, to equip the house with what would be required for such a teaching facility.

Although she was struggling with ill health at the time, Denise accomplished this and “The House” as it became known operated successfully for a number of years. The need became obvious for a bigger facility, enabling students to engage in courses appropriate to their needs. The Special School in Ramsay Street, Toowoomba (since 1998 - The Ramsay Street Campus of Clifford Park Special School) was converted to a multi-functional complex, and one building of old classrooms was refurbished as a “house in the community”. Consequently, courses available today have been built from small beginnings and now a range of 25 courses in each term cover such life skills as cooking, hygiene, community access and cleaning. Many hundreds of students who have special educational needs have to date accessed this Education Queensland facility.

Unfortunately Denise Kable died on 9th January, 1990 and although she only saw the small house on Hume Street as the working “House”, the Ramsay Street facility has been named in her honour.