



The Place To Be

Media release

Geoff Howard MLA, Member for Ballarat East

Monday 23rd June 2008

\$100,000 UPGRADE FOR WALLACE & DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN

Geoff Howard MP, Member for Ballarat East visited children and staff at the Wallace and District Kindergarten today, announcing a \$100,000 grant to renovate and expand the facility and incorporate the Maternal and Child Health Centre.

The Wallace and District Kindergarten runs 3 and 4 year old kinda for about 40 children from the area and is well supported by local families.

The money will see an expansion of the building to incorporate community rooms, office space and expanded play areas for the children. The Maternal and Child Health Centre currently in Bungaree will also be moved to the new facility.

Geoff said 132 centres across the state will share \$7.1 million in renovation and refurbishment grants, including over \$215,000 for kindergartens in the Ballarat East Electorate.

“With Victoria experiencing a once-in-a-generation baby boom, the Brumby Government investment will support the provision of quality child care early childhood services and infrastructure,” Geoff said.

Funding of \$30,000 was also made available for Meredith Kindergarten for refurbishment and painting and \$48,327 for Trentham to add wheelchair access, outdoor seating and refurbishment of the bathroom, foyer and offices.

Renovation and refurbishment grants include adding or updating multi-purpose rooms, amenities and outdoor play areas and equipment, some as a result of drought conditions and upgrading and replacing items such as roofs, window frames and floor coverings.

Some centres will use their grants to provide facilities to incorporate Maternal and Child Health Centres and other children’s services. Others will be able to offer more places or extended childcare hours, reducing the pressure on fees and fundraising.

Minor upgrades include funding for shade structures, water tanks, air conditioning, fencing, playground equipment and educational resources.

The funding is part of the Brumby Government’s commitment to invest \$38.56 million in early childhood capital services announced in December.

“Investing in early childhood services will have enormous benefits for children and their families,” Geoff said.

In the photograph: Geoff Howard MP, Miria Lewinski and Julie Boyd (centre staff) and children Joshua Lewinski, Sohie and Holly Boyd and Laura Lee.