



Speech by
Simon Finn

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Hansard Wednesday, 25 November 2009

MOOROOKA STATE SCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN

Mr FINN (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (12.00 pm): The young children of Moorooka are poised to have a flying start to their education journey. In just three months the new kindergarten will open at Moorooka State School with local children of kindergarten age able to begin the journey for the 2010 school year. This kindergarten is the first of the government's commitment to 240 new services across Queensland to give thousands of young Queenslanders an opportunity for this flying start and targeting a 95 per cent participation rate in kindergarten by 2014. The Moorooka kindergarten building is a new, modern facility that is close to completion at a factory in Yatala and will be shipped to the school soon for preparation for the 2010 opening.

It is no mistake or random decision that Moorooka has been targeted for a new kindergarten service. The rollout of the flying start program will be in locations determined by local need, and the Moorooka area has a high demand for early education services. With estimates that the local area will be home to more than 250 four-year-old children by 2013, it is critical that early education services meet population demand. In 2010 Moorooka's new kindergarten will cater for up to 44 kindy-age children and will offer a program delivered by an early childhood teacher for 15 hours a week, 40 weeks a year. This is a school community that is made up of 25 per cent of children born overseas, including 15 per cent who are refugees. These children need a good start to their education.

This building program will deliver 240 new kindergartens and create 2,500 construction jobs and represents a \$321 million investment in Queensland's growth and population demands. Population growth, and the subsequent pressure on services and infrastructure, is at the core of challenges facing Queensland, and this flying start for our children is about this government delivering today and planning for the needs of tomorrow.