

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1026**  
**Asked on 16 June 2011**

**Mr Kilburn** asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline what has been done to improve access to accredited kindergarten programs in the Chatsworth Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and his continuing interest in early childhood education. Since providing an update on progress in rolling-out access to early childhood education in the Chatsworth Electorate in April of this year, I am pleased to advise that a second kindergarten service will open at the Gumdale State School in 2012 to meet the growing needs of this community.

This double service will now provide 88 places for local children rather than 44 as originally planned. These extra services are part of the Queensland Government's investment of \$321 million to establish up to 240 extra kindergarten services in areas of need by 2014.

In addition to establishing new kindergarten services, we are for the first time directly funding long day care services and kindergarten services operated by non-state schools to provide kindergarten programs.

Since my last update in April 2011, a further long day care service, Mother Duck Child Care and Preschool, has been approved to provide a kindergarten program delivered by a qualified teacher.

Collectively, this brings to six the total number of long day care services in the Chatsworth electorate providing an approved kindergarten program delivered by a qualified teacher. These six approved services are:

- ABC Development Learning Centre – Carina
- ABC Development Learning Centre – Carindale
- Carina Heights Child Care and Development
- Kindy Kapers Early Learning Centre - Wakerley
- King of the Castle – Avalon
- Mother Duck Child Care and Preschool.

These long day care services are in addition to the three existing kindergarten services that have been providing quality kindergarten programs in the Chatsworth electorate for many years. I am pleased to report that the extra service established at Carindale Kindergarten on the site of the Carina State School opened as planned at the start of the 2010 school year and is well attended.

The Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme is an important component of the Bligh Government's plan to provide all children with access to high quality early education in their early years.

National and international research indicates that children who participate in a quality early childhood education are well placed for learning and success in life.

Queensland's first specifically developed kindergarten learning program, the *Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline* (kindergarten guideline) is supporting kindergarten teachers to plan and deliver quality learning programs for Queensland children.

The kindergarten guideline provides advice about creating stimulating and nurturing learning environments that children need, the importance of monitoring children learning and sharing information with families about their child's progress. We know that positive experiences in the early years of life have long-term benefits on health, learning and behaviour.

As the roll-out of universal access to kindergarten in the year prior to starting Prep continues, families in the Chatsworth electorate will continue to benefit from access to more programs.