

Question on Notice
No. 1053
Asked on 17 June 2011

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

QUESTION: How is the State Government expanding access to kindergarten services for the children of the Southport electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and his continuing interest in early childhood education. I welcome this opportunity to provide an update on the progress in rolling out access to kindergarten programs in the Southport electorate.

Through the Government's introduction of the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme, an increasing number of young children in the Southport electorate have access to kindergarten programs.

In addition to the Trinity Kindergarten service, the following 15 long day care services in the Southport Electorate have been approved to provide a kindergarten program delivered by a qualified teacher.

- A.B. Paterson Early Childcare Centre
- ABC Developmental Learning Centre Parkwood North
- Ashmore Community Children's Centre
- Bauer Street Community Children's Centre
- C&K Railway Community Preschooling Centre
- Club Junior Arundel Centre 1
- Imagine Education Early Learning Centre - Lovell House
- Imagine Education Early Learning Centre - Alan House
- Kool Kids Southport
- Little Feet Childcare and Pre-Prep Centre 1
- Musgrave Hill Community Children's Centre
- Parklands Early Childhood Community Centre
- Southport Catholic Parish Child Care Centre
- Sunkids Children's Centre - Arundel
- The Labrador Children's Playschool

This 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. That is why the Queensland Government is investing \$321 million to establish up to 240 extra kindergarten services in areas of need by 2014 and directing funding to long day care services to provide teacher-delivered kindergarten programs.

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 and 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 behavior.

Families in the Southport electorate will benefit from access to more programs as the rollout of universal access to kindergarten programs continues.