

Question on Notice
No. 1064
Asked on 17 June 2011

Mr Watt asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr C R Dick) —

QUESTION: Will the Minister advise what funding is provided in the State Budget for kindergarten services in the Everton 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 Everton electorate.

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

Currently, the Government provides funding support for places for kindy-age children in the Everton electorate through the following kindergarten services:

- Albany Creek Kindergarten
- Arana Hills Kindergarten
- Eatons Hill Community Kindergarten
- Everton Park Kindergarten
- Mitchelton Community Kindergarten
- Prince of Peace Lutheran Kindergarten.

The newest kindergarten service, located at Prince of Peace Lutheran College, Everton Hills, is one of up to 240 being established as part of this Government's Q2 commitment to establish extra kindergarten services in areas of need by 2014. This new service commenced operations in Term 2 of this year and was jointly funded with the school.

Since the last update in October 2010, a further two long day care services – McConaghy Street Child Centre and Brookside Child Care and Preschool Centre – have been approved to provide a kindergarten program delivered by a qualified teacher.

Collectively, this brings to seven the total number of long day care services in the Everton electorate providing an approved kindergarten program delivered by a qualified teacher.

The 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.

More families in the Everton electorate will benefit as this Government delivers on its commitment to provide access to kindergarten programs for all Queensland children in the year prior to Prep.