

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 347**

**Asked on 23 March 2011**

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

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise details of the roll out of the Queensland Government's kindergartens in the electorate of Albert and the benefits to local families?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for her question and her continuing interest in education. I welcome this opportunity to provide an update on progress in rolling-out access to early childhood education in the Albert electorate.

It is well known that a quality early childhood education sets up our children for learning and success in life and that's why the Queensland Government is investing \$321 million to establish up to 240 extra kindergarten services in areas of need by 2014.

National and international research has found positive experiences in the early years of life have long-term benefits in health, learning and behaviour. A quality early childhood education and care program, such as kindergarten, creates the stimulating and nurturing environment children need to thrive.

I am pleased to advise that families within the Albert electorate will benefit significantly from the Queensland Government's reforms to early childhood education. The Government has already announced initiatives that will see 368 extra kindergarten places created in the electorate.

This includes a new kindergarten service at the Gaven State School. The new service opened at the start of 2011 and is operated by the Crèche and Kindergarten Association of Queensland (C&K). The service provides 44 extra places for local families.

The Government has also announced that six extra services will be established on four state school sites in the Albert electorate, to open in 2012. The extra services will be co-located on at Coomera Springs, Highland Reserve, Mount Warren Park and Norfolk Village State Schools. The Coomera Springs and Highland Reserve sites will each offer two kindergarten services. These services will provide up to 264 extra places for the local community and be operated by C&K.

Two long day care services in the Albert electorate have been approved to provide a kindergarten program and receive funding under the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme (QKFS). Collectively, the St Stephen's College Child Care Centre, Upper Coomera, and St Mary's Catholic Child Care Centre, Coomera, provide up to 60 extra kindergarten places.

A further round of funding for long day care services closed on 31 March 2011. Services that successfully apply will be approved as kindergarten program providers and will also receive funding under QKFS.

Families in the Albert electorate will benefit from access to more programs as the rollout of universal access to kindergarten in the year prior to starting Prep continues.