

## Question on Notice

No. 722

Asked on 16 October 2013

**Mr Hobbs** asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (Mr Langbroek) –

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline how the Newman Government is delivering improved kindergarten facilities for the children of the Warrego Electorate, including all grants and subsidies provided since March 2012 and reported separately?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that all Queensland children, no matter where they live or their circumstances, can access a quality kindergarten program in the year before Prep.

To improve access to a kindergarten program for children in the Warrego electorate, since March 2012, the Government has committed approximately \$3.9 million to increasing kindergarten places in the communities of Cunnamulla, Mitchell, Miles and Chinchilla. The Government is also exploring options to provide extra places in Tara.

The provision of extra kindergarten infrastructure in these communities is much needed, and will ensure that more children are ready for school and better prepared for their journey through life.

The establishment of the new service at Mitchell is a significant achievement given local families previously had no centre-based child care options.

And in making the new kindergarten service at Cunnamulla a reality, the Department of Education, Training and Employment worked closely with Churches of Christ Care and Paroo Shire Council. The Department has also provided funding for Churches of Christ to buy and operate a bus to get children to and from the kindy program, and assisted with the identification of a housing solution to attract and retain an early childhood teacher for the new service.

In 2013, the Government introduced a distance kindergarten program delivered through the State Schools of Distance Education, called "e-kindy". Many children who cannot access centre-based programs due to isolation will benefit from this program, including some families in the Warrego electorate.

In addition to the establishment of extra kindergarten infrastructure, since March 2012, the Government has also provided approximately \$2.8 million to 15 kindergarten services and nine long day care services with approved kindergarten programs in the electorate. This funding is provided through the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme and is designed to offset the costs of providing a kindergarten program.

The Government has also provided approximately \$1.2 million in one-off grants to a number of kindergarten and long day care services to purchase equipment and to enhance and refurbish their facilities.

- Under the Essential Upgrades and Renovation and Refurbishment Grant Program, five kindergarten and two long day care services in the Warrego Electorate have received \$1.08 million (excluding GST) to upgrade their premises and improve the quality and safety of their facilities.

- A total of \$125,000 (excluding GST) was provided to nine kindergarten services and five long day care services under the Enhancement Grant Program to purchase new equipment and resources, undertake promotional activities and make minor maintenance and repairs to improve the quality of kindergarten programs.

The Government has also provided \$10,000 in funding to two kindergarten services to support the participation of children with a disability in kindergarten programs under the Disability Support Funding Program.