

Media Release

The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Children
Minister for Disability



Friday, 7 February 2025

MORE KINDER PLACES COMING TO MITCHELL SHIRE

The Allan Labor Government is delivering more kindergarten places and world-class early learning facilities to help meet the demand of families in Melbourne's north through a Building Blocks Partnership with Mitchell Shire Council.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn and Member for Kalkallo Ros Spence today announced almost \$13 million in funding to support the delivery of two kindergarten projects in Mitchell Shire – creating up to 306 new kindergarten places for local families.

Greater Beveridge Community Centre will be expanded to provide up to 68 additional kinder places. The Labor Government will contribute \$3.97 million towards the project, due to open in early 2026.

Wallan East Integrated Family and Children's Centre will provide up to 238 kinder places, funded with a Labor Government investment of up to \$9 million. The kindergarten is due to open early in 2027.

These two projects are part of the Labor Government's \$23 million investment in Mitchell Shire Council, delivering hundreds of new kindergarten places and helping busy families right across Melbourne's north.

The Labor Government's 17 Building Blocks partnerships are delivering 106 new and expanded kindergartens, supporting the delivery of 15 hours of three-year-old kindergarten each week by 2029 and up to 30 hours of pre-prep each week by 2036.

Through our nation-leading \$14 billion *Best Start, Best Life* reforms, the Labor Government is transforming early childhood education to help children thrive, save families money, and support parents and carers to return to work or study if they choose.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn

"We're building for our children's future – our partnership with Mitchell Shire will deliver these two great projects with up to 306 new kinder places, giving more families in the area access to great local kinders close to home."

Quote attributable to Member for Kalkallo Ros Spence

"These new projects are not only delivering more kinder places but also providing local children with the opportunity to learn and grow in modern, inclusive environments for years to come"

Quote attributable to Member for Yan Yean Lauren Kathage

"Expanding kinder places isn't just about education – it's about helping parents and carers return to work or study, knowing their children are getting the best start in life. This partnership will make a real difference to local families."

Quotes attributable to Mitchell Shire Mayor Councillor John Dougall

"As Beveridge and Wallan rapidly expand, it's vital that our infrastructure and services keep pace with the needs of the community. These projects are an important step towards ensuring we can meet that demand."