



# Media release

**The Hon Wendy Lovell MLC**

Minister for Housing

Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development

Monday, 4 June 2012

## **Local preschool shares in more than \$40 million in capital grants**

Member for Bayswater Heidi Victoria, together with Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development, Wendy Lovell, have just announced a preschool will receive funding in the Victorian Coalition Government's record investment in early childhood infrastructure.

The funding, which can be used to upgrade facilities or develop integrated children's services hubs, is a combination of state and National Partnership funding, incorporating the 2011-12 \$26 million grants round, money brought forward from the recently announced \$50 million grants round and \$4.4 million in internal departmental funds.

Ms Victoria congratulated Ringwood Uniting Church Preschool on its \$300,000 grant which will be used to deliver a \$345,000 project.

The project will result in the addition of a new room to enable both current programs to be maintained and further services to be delivered as the community needs change. There will be a renovation to the children's bathroom, administration and storage areas.

"This is great news for local children, not just now, but well into the future," Ms Victoria said.

"These grants show just how committed the Victorian Coalition Government is to educating our youngest students and setting them up for a life of learning.

"I'm especially proud that a local preschool has received much needed funding to help increase its capacity and prepare for 15 hours in the year before school as part of the Universal Access agreement," Ms Victoria said.

Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Wendy Lovell said the Victorian Coalition Government was committed to recognising early childhood as an important tier of education.

"The early childhood years are vital," Ms Lovell said.

"We know that 95 per cent of a child's brain development happens by the age of five, and a good quality early childhood education will give them a great foundation for their primary, secondary and tertiary education, and for their future work life.

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“Because of this, every application that met funding criteria has been funded, by bringing forward money from the recently announced \$50 million grants round.

“This will ensure that funding is on the ground and construction starts as soon as possible.

“We’ve allocated \$80.4 million to Children’s Capital Grants in just 18 months, and we’re looking forward to seeing the next round of applications,” Ms Lovell said.