

Media Release

Ingrid Stitt MP
Minister for Workplace Safety
Minister for Early Childhood



Friday, 19 March 2021

STATE-OF-THE-ART THOMASTOWN KINDER DELIVERED

Thomastown families now have a new state-of-the-art kindergarten, thanks to the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Early Childhood Ingrid Stitt and Member for Thomastown Bronwyn Halfpenny today visited Thomastown to officially open Spring Street Kindergarten, which has been built on site at Thomastown Primary School.

The early learning facility includes a two-room, 66-place kinder and a multipurpose consulting room that will provide local families with a wide range of services, including maternal and child health.

The Labor Government provided \$650,000 for the new kindergarten with Whittlesea Council contributing \$4.45 million for the rest of the facility.

The project was funded via the Building Blocks program, which helps kinders boost capacity and modernise facilities.

In an Australian-first, the Labor Government has committed nearly \$5 billion to deliver a full 15 hours of Three-Year-Old Kinder to every Victorian child over the next decade, with the roll-out beginning in 2020.

As part of this roll-out, the Government is upgrading infrastructure through a \$1.68 billion co-investment with the early childhood sector to build and expand kindergarten facilities across the state.

This investment includes the delivery of new kindergartens on existing school sites to support the roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten, helping parents ditch the double drop off and making the transition to school easier for students.

The Labor Government is also ensuring that every new primary school set to open from 2021 will have a kindergarten on-site or next door, this includes all 10 new primary schools which opened in 2021 and all six new primary schools opening in 2022.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Early Childhood Ingrid Stitt

"We know how important the early years of learning are, which is why we are delivering a record investment into early childhood."

"Making it easier for parents to ditch the dreaded double drop-off is just part of our commitment to make sure every child can access great early education close to home."

Quote attributable to Member for Thomastown Bronwyn Halfpenny

"We know that education begins far earlier than a child's first step into primary school, and this new kindergarten will give Thomastown children the education they need for the best start."