

Media Release

Ingrid Stitt MP

Minister for Workplace Safety

Minister for Early Childhood



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WORK STARTS ON EXPANSION OF BRIGHT KINDER

The Andrews Labor Government is giving Bright kids and families the early childhood facilities they deserve, with work starting on the exciting Alpine View Children's Centre upgrade.

Minister for Early Childhood Ingrid Stitt and Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes today turned the first sod of the \$1.16 million upgrade, which will increase the number of places supported by 52 at the kindergarten and improve its facilities.

The expanded centre will include two additional playroom spaces within the main building. The works also include a new modular building to provide after-hours school care for students next door at Bright P-12 College. The revamped centre will open in January 2022.

The upgrade has been funded through a major grant provided as part of the Building Blocks program.

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

As part of this roll-out, the Labor 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.

The investment includes the delivery of a number of new kindergartens on existing school sites to support the roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten, making it easier for parents to ditch the dreaded double drop-off.

The Labor Government is ensuring that every new Victorian primary school opening from 2021 will have a kindergarten on-site or next door, reducing the burden on parents and helping to build the Education State. 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're upgrading Alpine View Children's Centre to give Bright families and kids the facilities they deserve – a vital part of ensuring a world-class education in the early years."

"Our unprecedented investment in early childhood services right across Victoria is helping families access better quality programs and facilities."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes

"I'm delighted work is underway and Bright families are a step closer to getting the fantastic early learning facilities they deserve."