

Media Release

The Hon James Merlino MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education



**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Thursday, 8 May 2019

BUILDING BEGINS ON NEW KINDER HUB IN MORWELL

The Andrews Labor Government is creating more kindergarten places for Gippsland families with work beginning on a one-stop-shop for kinder, school and family services.

Minister for Education James Merlino today turned the sod on the \$6.5 million integrated children's centre, which will be co-located at Morwell Central Primary School.

The new facility, to be built by SJ Higgins, will deliver early childhood services such as three and four-year-old kindergarten, long day care, Maternal and Child Health services and multipurpose rooms for playgroups and other community activities.

Having an early learning centre at the school means drop-off will be easier for parents of young children, while also providing greater support for children in their transition from kindergarten to school.

The Labor Government has contributed \$4.9 million to the new centre which is a collaboration that includes the Colman Foundation and social enterprise Goodstart, who has also contributed \$1.6 million to the build.

The kindergarten hub is expected to be operational by 2020.

Victoria's biggest early education build will continue over the coming years, with almost 1,000 new and upgraded kindergartens to come.

The Labor Government will invest more than \$1.68 billion over the next decade to build around 785 new kinders and expand 170 existing services.

It's part of the Government's \$5 billion commitment to deliver a full 15 hours of three-year-old kinder programs to every Victorian child over the next decade, with the rollout beginning in six Local Government Areas in 2020.

Quote attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

"Making Victoria the Education State starts with the early years, which is why we're delivering unprecedented investment in early childhood services."

Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing

"This facility will ensure Morwell families have access to stronger support in early childhood, so kids are ready for kinder, ready for school and ready for life."