



Daryl Maguire MP

Member for Wagga Wagga

PRESS RELEASE

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\$4.5 MILLION WORTH OF GRANTS OPEN FOR WAGGA WAGGA AND BEYOND

Not-for-profit, community based services in Wagga Wagga are encouraged to apply for \$4.5 million worth of grants, targeting the youngest learners in regions like Wagga Wagga.

Minister for Early Childhood Education Sarah Mitchell said research shows a quality early education is the best preparation for success at school and beyond, we believe children in Wagga Wagga Electorate deserve nothing less.

“Services like playgroups and toy libraries play a vital role in offering a pathway into preschool, which is why the NSW Liberals & Nationals have opened a \$2 million grant to fund programs supporting children to prepare for an early childhood education,” Mrs Mitchell said.

Applications for the Start Strong Pathways program will open at the end of November. In addition, the Liberals & Nationals Government continues to support the engagement of Aboriginal children and disadvantaged children in early childhood education with a further \$2.5 million through the Community Grants program.

“One off grants of up to \$7,000 can be used for initiatives such as regular breakfasts, specialised staff or transport initiatives to increase access,” Mrs Mitchell said.

Daryl Maguire said he is proud to be part of a Government that sticks by its commitments and continues to invest in the early years of youngest learners.

“We believe it is important for services in Wagga Wagga to create welcoming environments and build meaningful relationships with children in order to break down any barriers that may stop families enrolling.”

“Wagga Wagga’s future policemen, nurses, scientists and journalists are being shaped in our preschools as we speak, these grants are an investment in the future of our community,” he said.

The Community Grants program will open in February 2018 for not-for-profit, community-based preschools and mobile preschools.