CHILD-CARE TOY AND EQUIPMENT GRANTS ON WAY

February 21st, 2013

Thousands of children in Territory childcare centres will benefit from the Country Liberals Government’s $150,000 Toy and Equipment Grant Program.

A 2012 election commitment, the funding was announced in the December Mini Budget and is part of the additional $10 million provided by the Government to the Office of Children and Families.

Centres will be eligible for approximately $85 per child every two years.

Payments will range between $1100 and $10,500 depending on the number of full time places each centre is providing.

Treasurer Robyn Lambley said letters had been sent to 73 childcare centres Territory-wide informing them that the Toy and Equipment Grant scheme is now underway and that funds will begin flowing during the first half of the year.

“The Mills Government is committed to ensuring that children who are enrolled in childcare centres are provided with quality educational equipment that helps with their development,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Updating child care equipment can come at considerable expense to centre operators and this contribution from Government will assist with more regular turnover of toys, games and activities.

“This payment is a win for childcare centres, for children and for their parents.

“Approximately half the eligible child care centres will receive their first Equipment Grant payments in June this year and the remainder will be paid out the following month.

“From then on, funding will be provided every alternate year.

“Payments will be calculated around the number of children who attend the centre and utilisation rates. As the number of services operating in the Territory changes and utilisation rates fluctuate, grant payments will vary over time.”

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