Larapinta Child and Family Centre opens

4 August 2016

Chief Minister Adam Giles today officially opened the $5.5 million Larapinta Child and Family Centre in Alice Springs.

“This new facility highlights the Country Liberals Government’s commitment to investing in early childhood education, increasing the provision of childcare and integrated services for the local community,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“The Larapinta Child and Family Centre provides 70 long-day-care places, assisting to meet the need for childcare services in Alice Springs for children aged from birth to five years of age.

“It will also cater for a range of services and programs including early childhood education, health services, family wellbeing and adult education and capacity building.

“The Country Liberals Government is building the infrastructure growing families need and Larapinta is the sixth Child and Family Centre in the Territory, joining Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Ngukurr, Palmerston and Yuendumu.

Minister for Education Peter Chandler said “The centre provides a pathway from early childhood through to primary school, allowing siblings of different ages to interact with each other throughout their schooling.

“The Country Liberals Government is delivering high quality play-based education and care programs and services for children aged from birth to five years of age, so we can develop strong and confident children ready to begin school.

“The layout of the facility is designed to provide flexibility, security and a welcoming environment for young children and their families.”

Principal of Larapinta School Brenda Jolley said “I am very honoured and excited to take on the responsibility of the Child and Family Centre and look forward to the positive influence and support this facility will have on the students, families and the community.”
“Having the early learning centre and other services co-located with our primary school will mean that children will be provided with pathways from early childcare services through to preschool and on to primary school – we can’t wait to get started,” Ms Jolley said.

Families have been actively engaged in determining the range and nature of programs and services that will be provided at the centre based on the needs of young children and families in the region. Services will include programs such as creche, playgroups, Families as First Teachers program, mums and bubs programs, immunisation clinics, nutrition programs, hearing and vision checks, and similar services.

One of the first programs available at the Larapinta Child and Family Centre is ‘Baby FAST’. Baby FAST is a research based, internationally recognised, family support program for infants aged birth to three years of age. It is a group process that builds relationships between young new parents, their baby, a supportive adult and often the grandparents along with community agency professionals.

“The Larapinta Child and Family Centre is a fantastic example of government working together with local services and the community to provide young Territorians and their families access to multiple services from the one location” Mr Giles said.

Media contacts:

For Chief Minister Adam Giles, Adrian Renzi 0419 609 430
For Minister Peter Chandler, James Perrin 0447 826 918

Related files
160804 Giles Chandler - Larapinta Child and Family Centre.docx (docx 761.7 kb)