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Exciting funding announcement for Avenel Kindergarten

Strathbogie Shire welcomed a \$350,000 funding announcement yesterday from the Victorian Government's *Children's Facilities Capital Program* towards a major upgrade and extension of the Avenel Kindergarten.

The Victorian Government will be partnering with Strathbogie Shire Council to deliver what will be a \$526,000 upgrade in total.

State Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes visited the Avenel Kindergarten to make the announcement.

The upgrades will involve significant extensions to the buildings, reconfiguration of the entrance, a new reception area, a consultation room and a meeting room.

Extensions will facilitate a greater capacity for kindergarten students, from 28 to approximately 60 places and allow for integration of an early childhood learning centre, fun groups, supported play groups, as well as after school and in future long day care provision.

The project will also see Maternal and Child Health Services co-located at the kindergarten.

State Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes said "the opportunities that this type of investment open up for the economy of the town and the ability for families to move here is amazing."

Strathbogie Shire Mayor Amanda McClaren said the funding announcement provides much needed support to families of Avenel and the surrounding district.

"The Avenel community has had limited early childhood services which has meant families have had to find alternative arrangements in surrounding towns including Seymour, Nagambie and Shepparton," Cr McClaren explained.

"The development of the Avenel Kindergarten into a one-stop-shop for early childhood is going to be a massive source of support for families in the town and ensure the current and future needs of the community are being met."

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