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Minister Symes breaks ground for \$526,000 Avenel Preschool Upgrade

Strathbogie Shire Council joined Member for Northern Victoria the Hon. Jaclyn Symes MP to turn the first sod at the Avenel Preschool recently, to mark the commencement of a \$526,000 upgrade and extension to the facilities.

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

It will also include the provision of a second playroom, all abilities toilets, new kitchen and a larger storeroom.

A dedicated Maternal and Child Health room will also be included in the upgrade, which will allow for a Maternal and Child Health nurse to be stationed at the new facility on a part-time basis.

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

Strathbogie Shire Mayor Amanda McClaren said it was great to celebrate the beginning of construction and looks forward to seeing the project come to fruition.

“Residential development is booming here in Avenel and the town has become a popular place to for young families to settle, with significant growth in attendance at both the Avenel Preschool and the local primary school over the last few years,” Mayor McClaren explained.

“The Avenel community has had limited early childhood services, which has meant families have had to find alternative arrangements in neighbouring towns including Seymour, Nagambie and Shepparton.”

“This \$526,000 upgrade and extension will transform this facility into a one-stop-shop for early childhood and it’s really exciting to be able to turn the first sod today and get things moving on the project,” Cr McClaren said.

Construction is scheduled for completion in July 2019.

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