

MEDIA ALERT

New classroom doubles capacity for children with autism in Bundaberg

Early intervention for children with autism will be more accessible with the opening of a new classroom at AEIOU Bundaberg on Friday.

The centre, which has been providing autism-specific therapy and care in the area since 2012, is proud to be offering access to up to 12 more pre-school aged children.

AEIOU Bundaberg Centre Manager Amanda Rogers said the centre expansion meant families could spend more time receiving crucial early intervention, and less time on the waitlist.

"AEIOU was established in Bundaberg in direct response to parent demand and advocacy," Ms Rogers said.

"Before opening this service, we were able to offer supports via a partnership with Goodstart Early Learning, but the opening of this centre six years ago was an important development for AEIOU and local families.

"Since that time, we've seen a significant rise in demand for our service which provides support from disciplines including occupational, speech and behaviour therapy in addition to early education in a single environment.

"We offer a unique model of support, and it's a real victory for us and families in the area that we've been able to double our capacity and cater to more families this year."

Ms Rogers said families who were navigating the process of receiving a diagnosis should get in touch with the centre as a priority to secure their place for 2020.

Media are invited to attend the event, which will be attended by Bundaberg Mayor Cr Jack Dempsey, and fellow councillors.

DETAILS

DATE: Friday 22 November 2019 | **TIME:** 10.30am – 11.30am **LOCATION:** AEIOU Bundaberg, 6 University Drive, Branyan

Attendees: AEIOU Chair Susan Rix, AEIOU CEO Alan Smith, Centre Manager Amanda Rogers, Bundaberg Regional

Council Mayor Cr Jack Dempsey, Councillor Judy Peters, Councillor Ross Sommerfeld and Councillor Helen

Blackburn

ENDS -

ABOUT AEIOU Foundation: AEIOU Foundation is a leading provider of early intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We provide evidence-based therapy and education which is family-focused and provides every child with the best opportunity to gain vital independence and achieve their full potential. Operating from 10 locations, AEIOU enrols children aged 2 to 6 years. For more information about AEIOU Foundation visit www.aeiou.org.au.