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AEIOU wants u 2 be aware

INTERVENTION: Support changing lives

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A GROUNDBREAKING autism early intervention centre in Bundaberg is working with child care centres to boost awareness of its life-changing services.

The AEIOU centre opened in Bundaberg in 2013, in part due to Bundaberg's higher than average rates of children with autism, but it still has vacancies.

AEIOU operations manager Yolanda Borucki said the centre was taking enrolments for 2016 but were also able to take enrolments throughout the year.

"We're still quite new in the area and are keen to make sure families know our service can provide life-changing support, therapy and education for their child, but also provides strategies that can be used at home," Ms Borucki said.

"AEIOU also provides some respite and support for the family unit."

She said awareness of autism in Bundaberg had in-

“... behaviour becomes more manageable and children have the best opportunity to reach their full potential.”

creased in recent years and there were benefits of the early intervention which played a big part in what AEIOU did.

"There's more work to be done. We also recognise that families who live in regional areas beyond the Bundaberg city area may find it harder to access support, and can struggle with long commutes," she said.

"Each child is different, but across the program at AEIOU children make gains in communication, cognitive skills, independence, self help skills, including toilet training, and finally, the ability to attend to task. As a result of

this, behaviour becomes more manageable and children have the best opportunity to reach their full potential."

She said the centre was busy promoting a series of workshops for both families and allied health professionals in November.

"We would recommend families interested in the service arrange to visit the centre, meet our friendly team and learn about how the program works," Ms Borucki said.

"I would recommend that any parent who is concerned about their young child's development to make an appointment with their GP for a specialist referral. From there, parents can receive support from our service during the enrolment process. The best time to act is now, the 'early' part of the intervention is critical."

➡ To register for the free workshops, call Andrea Trudeau on 4155 0399 or email andrea.trudeau@aeiou.org.au.