



Australian Government

BUILDING OUR FUTURE



22 November 2017

First sod turned on Logan's new centre for children with autism

Young children with autism in Logan are a step closer to accessing life-changing early intervention, with construction commencing on the new AEIOU Centre for Autism this week.

To mark the occasion, Federal Member for Forde, Mr Bert van Manen will be joined by City of Logan Mayor Luke Smith and Griffith University Pro Vice Chancellor Linda O'Brien together with AEIOU Foundation Director Peter Kelly to **turn the first sod on the development on Thursday 23 November at 10am.**

As part of the innovative Meadowbrook Health and Knowledge Precinct and located at Griffith University's Logan Campus, the development is made possible with Federal and State Government Funding, including a \$1 million National Stronger Regions Fund grant, and a \$1 million grant from Queensland Health. Griffith University donated the land via a long-term lease.

AEIOU Foundation CEO Alan Smith said the project will create 50 full-time early intervention placements for children with autism and will facilitate collaboration with Griffith University to create training pathways for disciplines including behaviour therapy, speech and language pathology and occupational therapy.

"This is a milestone development; it will provide better support for local families caring for young children autism, and it will create significant research pathways and community partnerships, which can only benefit the community," Mr Smith said.

The AEIOU Logan Centre for Autism will feature four purpose-designed classrooms, a motor-skill therapy room, playground and modern staff, research and parent facilities.

"This is the 10th centre AEIOU Foundation has established, enabling the Foundation to support more than 270 children each year in Australia, which is the largest cohort of children with autism aged 2-6 in the country."

"Key stakeholders include Griffith University, Logan Together, Logan City Council and other local organisations. With intelligent design by Buchan Architects, and construction by Hutchinson builders, as well as fit-out funding from Chain Reaction Foundation and the Wantz Committee, we are creating a centre of exceptional standard."

DETAILS:

What: Sod Turning Ceremony to mark commencement of construction on new AEIOU Logan Centre for Autism

When: Thursday 23 November 2017, 10am

Where: Facilities Lane, Griffith University Logan Campus, Meadowbrook

Who: Member for Forde, Mr Bert van Manen MP;
City of Logan Mayor Luke Smith;
Griffith University Pro Vice Chancellor Linda O'Brien;
AEIOU Foundation Director Peter Kelly;
AEIOU Foundation CEO Alan Smith; and
AEIOU Foundation General Manager Greg Johnson

- ENDS -

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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ABOUT AEIOU Foundation:

AEIOU Foundation is a leading provider of early intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), providing an evidence-based therapy and education program. This family focused service provides every child with the best opportunity to gain vital independence and achieve their full potential. Operating in Queensland and South Australia, AEIOU enrolls children aged 2 to 6 years.

For more information about AEIOU Foundation visit www.aeiou.org.au.

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