

Good Morning

I am delighted to be here this morning representing the City of Cockburn and to share in this amazing initiative of Port School and the partnerships that have been established to turn a dream into reality.

I acknowledge:

The Honourable Peter Collier, MLC; Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs;
Electoral Affairs;

Mr Barry Finch, Principal, Port School;

Mr Mike Gilbert, Special Projects Manager, Port School;

Michelle, Port School Young Parent Centre Coordinator;

Parents, Carers and Students;

Ladies and gentlemen

I personally know of the long held dream of Port School to develop a Young Parent & Early Learning Centre, the need for them to seek all the necessary approvals, to source funding, to plan & design a 'sense of place' that Mums and Dad's will find accessible and homely, a place where they can leave their babies in a caring and nurturing environment knowing they can pop in at any time to snuggle their baby or to say hello to the staff.

It is also a place for them to seek information, guidance and support, to develop and enhance their parenting skills, to know that they can continue their schooling or seek an alternative pathway for further education and training, or to find a job.

Congratulations to the Port School Community – this is a milestone occasion and one that deservedly reflects an outstanding contribution to young Mums and Dads and their babies who are seeking further help and support at a very important part of their life.

Thank you.