Building the foundations for success in early childhood

The Victorian Government believes that every Victorian child deserves the best possible start in life. A child’s learning and development starts from day one and ensuring children participate in high-quality early childhood services is key to a child’s future success.

This Budget provides an extra $82.6 million over five years to meet the growing demand for early childhood services.

It responds to Victoria’s recent baby boom by delivering more kindergarten places, increasing the skills of the early childhood workforce and building and expanding kindergartens and childcare centres.

The number of babies being born in Victoria now is more than 20 per cent higher – or about 12,000 more babies – than 10 years ago, with more than 71,000 Victorian babies born in 2009.

The government is also committed to building a highly qualified early childhood workforce. This Budget complements significant recent workforce reforms including new workplace agreements which give Victoria’s graduate early childhood teachers salary parity with graduate primary and secondary school teachers.

The $82.6 million includes:

- $63.1 million to meet increased demand for kindergarten places
- $14 million to extend the successful $38 million Children’s Capital Program which provides grants to support the construction of integrated children’s centres and renovation and upgrades to existing community-based early years facilities
- $3.5 million towards the Improving Victoria’s Early Childhood Workforce strategy which supports mentoring, leadership courses and professional development within the early childhood workforce
- $2 million to expand the Maternal and Child Health Line and Parent Line which provides 24-hour advice to Victorian parents. This funding will strengthen the counselling services available in response to an increased demand for services.