

**FOR MEDIA**

## **CRAIG EMERSON**

**Member for Rankin**

7 August 2009

### **Giving our children the best possible start**

The Member for Rankin, Craig Emerson, today welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Early Childhood Education and Child Care, Kate Ellis, of the expansion of the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters to the community of Logan Central.

“This is going to be of great assistance to families in Logan Central. The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters helps families prepare their children for a successful start to school,” Mr Emerson said.

“The program provides educational resources and home tutors to work with families and children. A key feature of the program is that it empowers parents and carers to be their child’s first teacher.”

The Home Interaction Program offers home tutoring, books and educational resources to children between the ages of three and five years old. The Government is providing these services in partnership with the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

The Australian Government has committed \$32.5 million over five years to roll out the Home Interaction Program in up to 50 communities. The Program will assist up to 3000 disadvantaged families nationwide.

This announcement builds on other elements of the Government’s Education Revolution targeting early childhood education which includes:

- \$1.6 billion over four years to increase the Child Care Tax Rebate to 50 per cent of out-of-pocket costs to a maximum of \$7778
- \$970 million over five years to provide all Australian children access to early learning in the year before formal schooling
- \$126.6 million over four years to provide fee relief for at least 8000 TAFE students a year; an extra 1500 university places for early childhood teachers by 2011; and to reduce HECS-HELP debt of early childhood teachers working in regional and remote areas, Indigenous communities and areas of high disadvantage.

“The Australian Government remains committed to delivering high quality, affordable and accessible early learning and care for Australian children and their families,” Minister Ellis said.

The Australian Government in partnership with the Brotherhood of St Laurence is now seeking Expressions of Interest from organisations interested in delivering the Program in the new locations.

Further information about the Home Interaction Program and access to the Expression of Interest documentation is available at [hippyaustralia.org.au](http://hippyaustralia.org.au).

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