

KIDS LEAP INTO LEARNING AT RICHMOND PRIMARY

An innovative new pre-kindergarten program at Richmond Primary is helping ease the transition from home or child care to school life.

Launching the Leapfrog Program at Richmond Primary School today, Labor Member for Lyons Heather Butler said that the program for parents and four-year-old children encouraged children to see school as a positive, fun-filled learning environment.

"This great program is designed to ease the transition from home or childcare, and better prepare children for kindergarten, school and lifelong learning," she said.

"Parents and children share stories, do art and craft activities as well as basic literacy and numeracy activities.

"The program allows teaching staff to have a better understanding of the children before the start of the kindergarten year, and also has the added bonus of the parents getting to know each other and the school staff."

Ms Butler said that Richmond Primary School had a range of innovative programs, having recently won a Learning Together Award for inclusive practice.

"A special feature of Richmond Primary's inclusive practice is the involvement of children from across the school as volunteer mentors and buddies for students with additional needs," she said.

“The school already has a very active Junior Red Cross group that does a lot of volunteer work around the community, especially supporting and working with the residents of the Red Cross Units near the school.”

Ms Butler said that the State Government remained firmly committed to early years education in Tasmania, and would spend \$12.6 million over the next four years to support educational opportunities for young children.

“I’m a firm believer that schools need to be connected to their local communities,” she said.

“What is happening at Richmond Primary is a fantastic example of what great things can happen when communities work together – particularly in relation to the very important area of the early years.”