

Minister for Education
Minister for Disability Services
Deputy Leader in the Legislative Council

Level 1, 7 Franklin Wharf HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Phone: +61 3 6165 9420
Email: jo.palmer@dpac.tas.gov.au



10 OCT 2024

Ms Rebecca White MP
Labor Member for Lyons
Email c/o Clerk of the Assembly: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms White

Thank you for your Constituent Question on Thursday, 12 September 2024, asked as follows:

My question is on behalf of Bec, who is an educator at the Thrive Early Learning Centre in St Marys.

The community of St Marys has long been advocating for a new early childhood and education centre to be located and constructed on the St Marys school site. The current facility can only accept 10 children and there is a long waiting list that prevents parents from returning to work and denies children access to early childhood education.

Your government has signed an MOU with the Break O'Day Council to progress this project, but it remains unclear whether this includes siting a new centre at the school, how many places will be offered for children, and when construction of a new centre might start. Can you provide a detailed update on whether your government is committed to delivering this project and by when?

I am pleased to provide the following response:

The Tasmanian Liberal Government is working with regional partners under the Strategic Regional Partnership agreement for the East Coast to progress regional priorities.

The signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) included a priority to progress a project for investigating childcare provision in St Marys.


The Government has delivered funding support to the Break O'Day Council, as project owner, to commence this work.

The project will initially deliver a needs analysis for supply and demand of early childhood education and care, and outside school hours care in St Marys.

The project will also identify potential sites for a new education and care facility in St Marys and the current school site is one of a range of site options under consideration.

If the constituent would like more current information about the progression of this project, and when it is expected to be completed, I would encourage them to contact the Council's General Manager, John Brown.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jo Palmer'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education