



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

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St George pre-schoolers get a head start in STEM

ST GEORGE pre-schoolers will be some of the first kids in Australia to be introduced to science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM) through a new series of fun, play-based apps.

Maranoa MP David Littleproud said the Balonne Kindergarten is one of 100 care centres around the nation selected as part of the Federal Government's innovative Early Learning STEM Australia (ELSA) pilot to commence from Term One next year.

"Congratulations to Treasure Island for being selected in the trial and commitment to introducing Balonne pre-schoolers to new and exciting learning opportunities," Mr Littleproud said.

"Our kids deserve quality education, no matter where they live, and this pilot will help St George kids explore new ideas and skills in science, technology, engineering and math that will in turn boost their literacy and numeracy."

Mr Littleproud said the first app would introduce the concepts of sorting, ordering, patterns and representations through activities including creating decorations and organising food onto different plates, all within the theme of 'celebration'.

"This new \$6 million program will give our littlest learners the opportunity to develop numeracy skills and scientific curiosity that will set them up for the rest of their schooling," he said.

"With employment trends showing 75% of Australia's fastest growing careers demand skills in digital literacy and STEM, it is wonderful to see the curiosity of bush kids is being encouraged early in their development."

The ELSA pilot commences in Term one next year. For more information and a full list of selected preschools visit: www.elsa.edu.au

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Preschool name	Suburb	State/ Territory	Preschool type	Electorate
Balonne Kindergarten	St George	QLD	Stand-alone preschool	Maranoa
Treasure Island: Child Care Clifton	Clifton	QLD	Long day care	Maranoa

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