



## David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

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### Media statement

March 21, 2017

#### **Coalition Government funding means Southern Downs pre-schoolers will be given the chance to learn a second language**

SPEAKING a second language isn't just about making travel easier, the ability can also boost creativity and now – thanks for Federal Government funding – 147 pre-schoolers on the Southern Downs will be given the opportunity to learn Japanese and Italian, Maranoa MP David Littleproud said.

“The Coalition Government’s Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) program means Italian will be offered at Warwick Community Kindergarten and kids will be able to learn Japanese at Clifton’s Treasure Island Child Care Centre, C&K Allora Community Kindergarten and the C&K Glennie Heights Community Kindergarten,” Mr Littleproud said.

“This opportunity will not only start a life-long interest in language learning for our kids but also boost their English and problem-solving skills.

“Exposure to another language and culture can have significant benefits on children from a young age – it expands their horizons and opens up exciting opportunities around the world when they reach the workforce.”

Mr Littleproud said 566 preschool children across his rural electorate were going to be given the opportunity to learn a second language.

“This funding provides a great opportunity for our country kids with Japanese and Italian being offered on the Southern Downs to Spanish on offer in Longreach – just because you live in a small town shouldn't limit your education access,” he said.

ELLA began as a small trial of 41 preschools in 2015 and is a digital, play-based program where preschool children use a series of interactive applications (apps).

It is designed for use by educators who do not have formal language training and extensive support, training and resources are provided to assist educators in the effective delivery of early language learning and cultural awareness.

For more information, check out: [www.ella.edu.au](http://www.ella.edu.au)

–ENDS–

<b>Preschool name in Maranoa</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Language</b>	<b>Approx. number of children</b>
C&K Allora Community Kindergarten	Allora	Japanese	20
St Joseph's Catholic Kindergarten Blackall	Blackall	Japanese	17
Treasure Island Child Care Centre	Clifton	Japanese	18
Crows Nest Children's Centre (Kindergarten)	Crows Nest	Spanish	38
Dalby Beck Street Kindergarten	Dalby	Japanese	44
Snow White Kindergarten	Dalby	Japanese	25
Goodstart Early Learning Dalby	Dalby	Japanese	40
LEAD Childcare Goondiwindi	Goondiwindi	Chinese (Mandarin)	35
Kingaroy ELC	Kingaroy	Italian	15
South Burnett Child Care Centre	Kingaroy	Spanish	40
Little Peanuts Early Learning Centre	Kingaroy	Japanese	22
Longreach Childcare Center	Longreach	Spanish	17
Murilla Long Day Care & Kindergarten	Miles	Spanish	22
Little Tackers Childcare Centre	Millmerran	Indonesian	20
Mitchell Early Education Centre	Mitchell	Italian	29
Nanango & District Kindergarten	Nanango	Japanese	20
Mulga Mates Centre Inc.	Quilpie	Japanese	9
Surat ECEC	Surat	Japanese	14
Toobeah Kindergarten	Toobeah	French	12
Warwick Community Kindergarten	Warwick	Italian	87
C&K Glennie Heights Community Kindergarten	Warwick	Japanese	22
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>566</b>

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