

# Childcare centre opens its doors

By VANESSA BURGESS

THE new one-stop shop for families was officially unveiled to the community last week.

Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development, Wendy Lovell, officially opened the Alpine View Children's Centre last Wednesday, making it a momentous occasion for the centre's community.

During her speech, Ms Lovell said the state-of-the-art centre brought a range of children's services together under one roof.

The new \$2.8 million centre increases access for families to high-quality early years services within the alpine area.

The centre is now home to five services, including kindergarten, long-day care, play group, toy library and the maternal and child health nurse and can accommodate 123 children at any given time.

The centre's kindergarten program is now offering 15-hour programs for four-year-olds, and can cater for 66 children instead of 29 and gives the children the chance to socialise with more children and interact with eight different educators.

"It's wonderful to know that the new centre is offering 15-hour four-year-old programs, which have a real benefit when it comes to how a child develops and succeeds at school," she said.

After a tour of the building, former Bright P-12 College principal, John Pryor, welcomed guests and explained how the new centre had been a vision of the Bright community for over 15 years.



**A VIEW TO THE FUTURE:** Bill Sykes (MLA, Benella) and Wendy Lovell with children from the Alpine View Children's Centre, (from left) Abbey Channon, Zoe Head, Michaela Nightingale, Heidi McKee, Darcy Thurston and Jack Thomson. PHOTO: Vanessa Burgess

Mr Pryor explained how the process regarding the initial planning and concept of the centre began in 2008 leading to construction finally beginning in 2012, and was opened to families in January this year.

Alpine Shire Council deputy mayor Jan Vonarx also congratulated everybody involved in the project.

"The end result justifies the hard work that's been put in," Cr Vonarx said.

She also commended all the staff on coming together to give the community what they need.

Bill Sykes (MLA, Benella) who attended the opening said the project was a wonderful example of what

could be achieved when all three levels of government work together with the local community.

Alpine Children Services manager, Jenny Kromar, thanked everybody involved in creating the centre, and said a brighter future for children was being created.

Alpine View Children's Centre is calling for all current and future families to come along to parent information evening this Thursday, June 27 at 7:30pm.

The evening will be held in the multi-purpose room at Alpine View Children's Centre, 23 Deacon Ave, Bright, and will be presented by an educational leader.