



Jason Wood

Liberal for La Trobe

August 22, 2013

WOOD SECURES \$1M IN SUPPORT FOR NEW CENTRE TO ASSIST FAMILIES

Jason Wood, Liberal Candidate for La Trobe, today announced \$1 million in funding for the construction of the Toomah Centre in Officer.

Mr Wood today joined Windermere staff, representatives from Cardinia Shire Council and the local community to celebrate this significant funding announcement.

“The purpose built Toomah Centre will offer care and support services for vulnerable families and individuals, to help build a stronger sense of community for all,” Mr Wood said.

“Youth suicide, depression, substance abuse and other social issues have touched many families in our community.

“The new Toomah Centre will attempt to directly address these issues by working with families to provide counselling and support for those under stress, to help minimise negative outcomes and build a stronger local community.”

This project will be delivered through a funding partnership between Windermere, Cardinia Shire Council and a Coalition Government.

Windermere is one of the largest and oldest community service organisations, serving the entire southern metropolitan area of Melbourne across ten municipalities.

CEO of Windermere Dr Lynette Buoy said ““We are extremely delighted to receive such a commitment, at such a critical time in the development of this facility. We know how much of a difference this will make for our community.

In such a large growth corridor being able to have a place and space to provide much need support services is essential to meeting the needs of families and individuals in their own community. It will reduce their need to travel long distances or simply miss out. Having this space enables us to get in early to make a difference and that is what we are all about.”

The new community centre will comprise of a community kitchen, meeting spaces, training facilities and offices to provide flexible models of service delivery that combine community development and service integration in this significant growth corridor.

“With Cardinia Shire is currently the third fastest growing municipality in Australia, the Toomah Centre will be a great asset across the communities of Officer, Beaconsfield and Pakenham.

“In my time as both a candidate and the Member for La Trobe, I have seen up close how important it is to provide appropriate support for the thousands of young families who live in our growth corridor.

“As your aspiring local representative I want to spend my time strengthening our community and providing real solutions to important social issues.”

Ends.

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