



Jason Wood MP
Federal Member for La Trobe

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 17 December 2013

\$1.5M FUNDING DELIVERED IN 100 DAYS FOR INSIGHT SCHOOL



Alan Lachman, Director and General Manager of Insight Education Centre for the Blind and Vision Impaired made a last minute dash to Canberra on 13 November 2013 to knock on the doors of Parliament House and ensure that the \$1.5M promised to him by the Government through Jason Wood MP just before the September election would be available.

Due to an inability to pay the construction company, Lloyd Group Pty Ltd, work on the Insight facility was at risk of becoming impossible to resume due to the blow out costs associated with stopping and resuming work on a project of this size.

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Fortunately, Mr Lachman's mercy dash paid off. In the last minute visit, Mr Jason Wood MP secured a meeting with Senator Mitch Fifield MP, Assistant Minister for Social Services and Manager of Government Business in The Senate who helped intervene in the Prime Ministerial Office to have the payment rushed through and signed off by the Prime Minister Tony Abbott directly.

"I am extremely proud to be a part of building the first school dedicated to the blind and vision impaired in Victoria with Mr Lachman. Thanks to Senator Fifield's hard work with the Prime Ministerial Office and Mr Lachman's tenacity, we can now proudly say that La Trobe will be the first to house Victoria's only education facility for the blind and vision impaired. To get this funding committed and received in 100 days of commitment is something I am very proud of." Mr Wood MP said.

Mr Lachman, along with his wife and children, have dreamed of having a facility where their own vision impaired daughter can receive the education she needs in a supportive environment for many years.

"Insight Education Centre for the Blind and Vision Impaired is now being built at a very high pace after receiving the \$1.5M of funding on Thursday 12 December. The support we have received from Mr Jason Wood MP, Senator Mitch Fifield MP, Prime Minister Tony Abbott, and Lloyd Group Pty Ltd has been formidable and greatly reflects the need for a facility like Insight Education Centre in the area." Mr Lachman said.

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