

Official Opening Edition



PERTH EXCLUSIVE

Port Early Learning & Young Parent Centres Officially Open

Reported By Mike Gilbert

Port is certainly holding the baby when it comes to working with young mums with its dynamic new provision being opened on Thursday 3rd September 2015 by Education Minister Peter Collier.

Port YPC & ELC journey started in 2012 when the Board and Principal decided to look into the feasibility of supporting young mums and dads by creating a state of the art facility that would enable mums to continue their education. The centre finally officially opens its doors in September.

Full Story Pages 2,3,4,5 & 6



SEE ALL THE PICTURES & READ THE FULL STORY INSIDE!



Itinerary for Official Opening

Thursday 3rd September 2015

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 8am | - Caterers set up drinks/ snacks |
| 8-30am | - Port Staff and students ensure parking is smooth (Reserved space - Senator Reynolds, Melissa Parke, Peter Collier & Peter Tinley) |
| 8-55am | - Arrival Dignitaries & Guests |
| 9am – 9-15am | - Informal tour, walk around and light refreshments |
| 9-15am | - Welcome to country – (Port Students) |
| 9-20am | - Welcome address – Mike Gilbert (Port Special Projects Manager) |
| 9-30am | - Our Vision - Anne Gee (Port's Chairperson) |
| 9-40am | - Peter Collier MLC, Speaking & Official Opening |
| 10am | - Senator Linda Reynolds – The Commonwealth Grant |
| 10-10am | - Principals Closing Remarks & Thanks (Barry Finch) |
| 10-20am | - Free Time to look around and talk to Port YPC/ ELC staff |
| 11am | - Departure of all |

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Abbie Risebrow – Early Learning Centre Coordinator

Abbie was born to work with children. Knowing exactly what she wanted to do with her life, she began her **Childcare Diploma** straight from high school. Her passion grew and with years of being a constant learner, seeker of knowledge, and being mentored by inspirational women along the way she has arrived at Port School. She is keen to infuse her love and passion of outstanding practices and outcomes for children into the babies and children at the Early Learning Centre.

Being a **Qualified Educator** in the childcare field for 17 years she has looked after hundreds of children that have been soothed, cuddled, sang to, laughed with, read to, ran around and played with by her. She has had many different roles and has been responsible for groups of children of all age groupings from 0-5 years. She prides herself on her deep connections and understanding of the individual children in her care and planning amazing experiences and environments for children. She has created bonds with some children and families that will be lifelong. Abbie went into a role in the most recent years as a **Curriculum Leader**, training and inspiring Educators in the **Reggio Emilia Approach**. Educators trained by her said her eagerness and passion was contagious.



Michelle Forsyth – Young Parent Centre Coordinator

Michelle has recently commenced in the role of **Coordinator** of the **Young Parent Centre**. She began her career as a **Customer Service Officer/Teller** with the **Commonwealth Bank** after deferring her studies to be an **Italian Teacher**. Michelle left her career with the bank after 7 years to raise her 3 children; Maddy, Scott & Curtis who are now 19, 18, 16. Michelle returned to work as a **Child Care worker** and then as an **Education Assistant** at **Gilmore College** for 6 years, while continuing her studies towards being a teacher. Michelle was offered the position as an **EA/Facilitator** for 2.5 years in the **Young Parent Program** at Gilmore, which fuelled her passion for working with young mums.

Through some wonderful mentors in the **Young Parent Program**, Michelle continued with her studies, obtaining a **Diploma in Education Support** and completed her **Training and Assessment Certificate IV** to enable her to teach **Vocational and Educational Training (VET)**. This enabled Michelle to work with young teenage mums with **Uniting Care West's Talking Realities Program**. The young mums study towards a **Certificate III in Community Services** and have the opportunity to be employed as **Peer Educators** informing school students about the "realities" of being a teenage parent.

Michelle worked in this role for just over 1 year, before being offered the position as **Coordinator** at the newly built **Port School's Young Parent Centre**. As **Coordinator**, Michelle will support young teenage parents to continue with their education and develop and enhance parenting skills in a supportive and cohesive learning environment at **Port School** in the **Young Parent Centre**.

Mike Gilbert – Special Projects Manager

Mike has been at Port for over five years after starting as a **Design Technology teacher**. Over the last few years Mike has taken on a **Special Projects** role at Port including implementing the annual international excursion and project to **Klang in Malaysia**, acting up as **Principal** when required in **Barry's** absence as well as undertaking grants and fundraising initiatives. Mike came from a social inclusion and crime reduction background in the **UK** having specialized working with young people for over 10 years there managing a variety of projects for **UK Home Office** and **Welsh government agencies**. Mike was charged with the task of initially undertaking research and looking at the feasibility of the **Young Parent & Early Learning Centre** initiative. Once the schools board agreed the business proposal, Mike project managed the build, set up and recruitment of staff getting the centre to the operational status it is today. Along the journey Mike and the Port team have been successful in gaining a **Lotterywest grant** and **Capital Works Grant** to assist with the build.



**Megan Fitzgerald**

Megan has been a teacher at Port for 4 years and is a great asset to the program in sports, cooking and the annual Malaysia international excursion. She recently has taken on an additional outreach role for the school and will use some of this time to try to connect with the mums that are harder to engage. In addition, Megan has time allocated to the Young Parent Centre working with young mums on their certificate work and to assist with any educational elements of their parenting program.

**Tom Lee**

Tom has been a teacher at Port for two years and will be directly working with Michelle and Megan and the young mums on their education. As the program expands, it is envisaged Tom will undertake educational work with the dads as well in a mens shed style approach whilst also working closely on parenting skills that will assist them be a great parent.

**Matt Hopkins**

Matt is a teacher at Port and comes from a primary school background. Matt is currently working outreach on Port's mobile classroom facility. He will link in to the Young Parent Centre as required and will assist with healthy eating, sporting and general educational teaching. Matt's early years experience will be a great advantage having worked in the primary sector for many years.

**Myles Durham**

Myles is Port's full time onsite counsellor who is there to offer all students a variety of support and coping mechanisms when they go through turbulent or challenging times. Myles non-judgmental, non-confrontational approach allows students to freely and openly have private conversations on topics that may be sensitive to an individual.

**Fiona**

Fiona is an experienced early years child educator with a Diploma in Children's Services. She has a supervising officer certificate and will act up as ZIC when required. Fiona has only this week started at Port as a Full time member of the ELC team working with Abbie.

**Britanie**

Britanie is a casual junior member of the team who has just signed up for her Cert III in Childrens Services, Britanie has a very caring nature and will be a great asset to the overall team ethos whilst she learns an exciting new career path.

Kylie

Kylie is a casual qualified early years child educator with over 7 years experience in her field. Kylie joins the time on a flexible and casual as required basis, but the way things are going, Port ELC will be needing to see far more of her.





Philosophy

Port's Young Parent & Early Learning Centre will at all times aim to deliver the best quality of care for children and teen parents in both centres, through thoughtful, responsive, consultative, and responsible management practice.

The Child:

Childhood is a magical time and will be respected. We believe that children:

- Have rights and are entitled to be safe and secure.
- Are unique and this individuality is to be respectfully celebrated.
- Have a voice, which is valued and will be heard via responsive and reciprocal communication.
- Learn through play when engaged in a child-focused curriculum, which allows for spontaneous and intentional teaching that supports individual children's interests.
- Develop holistically through nurturing relationships and thrive when they have a sense of belonging to families, cultural groups and communities.
- Benefit and grow when they are in wondrous natural environments where curiosity and creativity is cultivated.

Staff:

A team consisting of a coordinator/ supervisor and qualified educators and several casual early years staff are in place to operate this facility effectively. The ELC staff although not directly working in the Young Parent Centre side, will need to buy into the bigger picture and embrace the holistic approach that Port are taking to work with the teen parents and their babies. We believe in positive and effective work relations and that staff:

- Are valued partners in teaching, they are unique and bring a diverse background of shared interests.
- Are encouraged and supported in the pursuit of ongoing professional development.
- As educators, role-models, facilitators, researchers and learners, we encourage staff to: Reflect critically on their practice, philosophy and ethics.
- Actively and consistently promote principles of fairness, equity and social justice, including advocating for the rights of all children.
- Work collaboratively to achieve best practice.
- Express respectful recognition and acknowledgement of the vital role of families in raising children.

Families:

We aim to develop and build upon mutually respectful partnerships and believe that families:

- Are the principle influential people in a Childs life and are therefore always welcome within our centre, its planning and management.

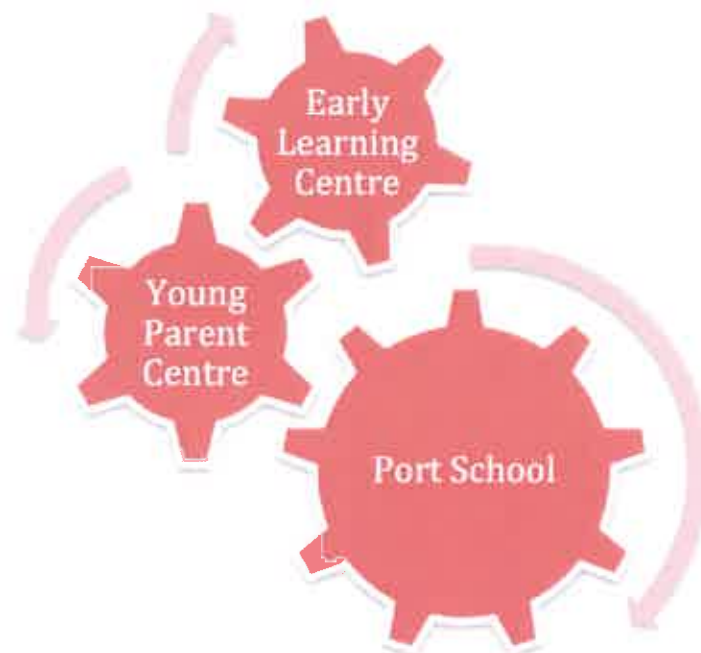
- Are advantaged by open, honest communication about the centre, and its practices. They benefit when trusting relationships are developed and educators and families share information.
- Are diverse and are invited to share and celebrate their culture and values.
- Have the right to equity, privacy and confidentiality.

Community:

We all belong to a wider community which:

- Consists of diverse organizations and individuals who have special talents, knowledge and experiences which can enhance the curriculum and services offered to children, families and staff.
- Benefits when children and families are supported to be positive, active contributors to their society.

The two centres need to collaboratively work in cohesion, with many areas overlapping.



Programs will include stimulating indoor and outdoor learning experiences which include quiet and active times, individual, small group and large group experiences, in addition our programs are flexible and allow for spontaneous experiences.





YOUNG PARENT PROGRAM

- Are you pregnant?
- Do you have a young child?
- Are you 21 or younger?
- Would you like support to finish high school or alternate pathway?

Our Young Parent Centre and Early Learning Centre can provide you with all the support you need to complete your studies and develop and enhance your parenting skills

LOOK
INSIDE
FOR
MORE

YOUNG PARENT CENTRE OPENING HOURS

| Day | Hours |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Monday | 8.00am - 4.00pm |
| Tuesday | 8.00am - 4.00pm |
| Wednesday | 8.00am - 4.00pm |
| Thursday | 8.00am - 4.00pm |
| Friday | 8.00am - 4.00pm |
| Saturday | Closed |
| Sunday | Closed |



Port School
Hamilton Hill

80 Wheeler Rd. Hamilton Hill 6163

M | 0468 814 950

Ph | (08) 9335 6323

Email | youngparentcentre@portschool.wa.edu.au
Email | earlylearningcentre@portschool.wa.edu.au



find us on facebook

Port Young Parent & Early Learning Centre

The Young Parent Centre & Early Learning Centre is operated by Port School Incorporated in conjunction with the Department of Education, ACECQA, Lottenes West and other partner agencies. Both centres are not for profit entities.



Young Parent
& Early Learning Centre

PARENTING & EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR TEENAGE PARENTS

M | 0468 814 950 Ph | (08) 9335 6323

SUPPORT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

WHAT WE CAN OFFER

- Experienced Coordinators
- Teachers
- Education and training programs such as Certificate in General Education (CGEA)
- Transition into employment and further training
- Variety of health and support services such as breastfeeding, nutrition and healthy choices
- Parenting and child development courses
- Access and support from community and government agencies
- Promotion of healthy activities
- Peer mentoring
- Playgroup
- Library services
- Excursions
- Cooking classes

YOUNG PARENT CENTRE (YPC)

- Our purpose built centre will provide you with all the opportunities to continue your studies in a supportive environment
- You can choose to study in the YPC, Port School's classrooms, workshops or transition to further education and employment.
- You can potentially access many of the facilities at Port School including the specialist kitchen and sports program.
- Support is available from various community and government agencies and support workers.
- Affordable child care (assistance provided with Centrelink benefits).
- You don't need to live in the catchment area.

**Success is a Journey,
Not a Destination**

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Our Early Learning Centre is a fully accredited, registered Childcare Centre. The stimulating, well-equipped centre and nature play garden will enrich your child's holistic development. They will get creative in the Art Room, experience early language, literacy and numeracy through playful songs and stories and interact with others their age.



The Early Childhood Educators will provide quality care and education through play encompassing The Early Years Learning Framework.

The program includes a variety of

- Indoor and outdoor play activities
 - Rhyme time and reading
 - Play based learning
- Parenting, nurturing and nutritional support