

RESPONSE TO CONSTITUENT

ASKED BY: Ms Janie Finlay MP

ANSWERED BY: Minister for Education

QUESTION:

My question is from Naomi in Dorset. Naomi says that there has been a singular re-engagement with the community about the broken promise on child care in the area. The community are feeling really disregarded, they're feeling unheard. They're more than disappointed; they're actually feeling like you're gaslighting them. The question from the community via Naomi is really clear - will you do the right thing and commit to building the CFLC in Dorset to the ECEC standard to include zero to five-year-olds?

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question on 14 April 2026 regarding the Tasmanian Government's commitment to the Dorset Child and Family Learning Centre and in particular, the early childhood education and care (ECEC) component.


There is no broken promise.

In 2024 the Tasmanian Government outlined our investment to building CFLCs in Scottsdale, Smithton and Longford that would also provide additional space to enable partnering with ECEC providers to deliver early education, long day care and vacation care and Outside School Hours Care where there is unmet need. Our \$24 million commitment to these three CFLCs remains.

The Tasmanian Government remains committed to delivering ECEC for the region in a way that supports both current and future community needs, while also considering the sustainability and viability of existing services. Work to identify how this commitment will be delivered is rapidly progressing with an update to be provided to the Local Enabling Group (LEG) on 19 May for further consideration.

Engagement with the community through the LEG continues and I had an incredibly constructive meeting with the LEG and some additional members of the Dorset community at Scottsdale Primary School on 8 May.

Yours sincerely



APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education

Date 12-5-26