

Ministers announce a new Cherbourg hostel to better support children

Joint Press Release - 31/05/04

The Minister for Child Safety Mike Reynolds and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Liddy Clark, today announced construction would begin next month on a new \$1.2 million Beemar Yumba Hostel for the Cherbourg community near Murgon.

Mr Reynolds and Ms Clark said the State Government had approved construction of a brand new facility to replace Beemar Yumba's existing residential children's care facility.

Mr Reynolds said the new facility off Barambah Road at Cherbourg would incorporate a new 12 bed children's hostel, carers' residence and administrative offices.

"This new hostel will be completed and ready for use by the end of November this year," he said.

"The Beemar Yumba Aboriginal Corporation currently receives \$185,000 a year from the Department of Child Safety to provide a residential care service for Aboriginal children.

"Funding will be reviewed over the coming months following assessment of the organisation's submission to the Department under the current Alternative Care Placement funding round."

Ms Clark said today's announcement followed approval earlier this month of an additional \$77,493 to help children and young people in the Cherbourg community who have been victims of sexual abuse.

"That special allocation funding will provide a sexual abuse counselling service for 12 months.

"The government recognised the need for a counselling service and is providing funding for the Wide Bay Sexual Assault Association Inc for the Kid's Intervention and Prevention Program (KIPP).

"The money will cover salary, operating funds and some set up funds for a counsellor position to provide sexual abuse counselling to children and young people in the Cherbourg Community," Ms Clark said.

Mr Reynolds also announced today that one-off funds of more than \$56,000 will be provided to Beemar Yumba Aboriginal Corporation to employ an additional support worker for a further twelve months.

"This will assist the Aboriginal children's hostel Beemar Yumba to offer better support to abused and neglected children in the Cherbourg area.

Mr Reynolds said the funding boost was further evidence that the Beattie Government was meeting its commitments when it came to Indigenous communities.

"I made a commitment to the people of Cherbourg when I visited them in March this year, as did the Premier, and we intend to keep those promises," Mr Reynolds said.

"We are not just making token gestures - but taking real strides toward ensuring Cherbourg is a safer place for Aboriginal children and young people to live," he said.