

MEDIA RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, 30 OCTOBER, 2019

\$130,000 UPGRADE TO EUROA MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRE

Families living in the Strathbogie Shire will be able to bring their babies to a new and improved Maternal and Child Health Centre, after the building received a \$130,000 upgrade.

The upgrade was fully funded by Strathbogie Shire Council and includes a larger refurbished kitchen, new accessible toilet with baby change facilities, larger consultation room and administration office, new heating and cooling system, a repaint and new flooring.

The larger consultation room will now accommodate visiting outreach services on the days that Maternal and Child Health is not operating in Euroa and the new kitchen and bathroom facilities will enable Council to deliver its Supported Playgroup Program from the centre.

Strathbogie Shire Mayor Cr Amanda McClaren said local families will now be able to visit a modern, fit for purpose facility when attending appointments and sessions.

"Maternal and Child Health is often the first point of contact for families with a new baby and is such an important source of support and advice," Mayor McClaren explained.

"Our Maternal and Child Health service is free and is easily accessible to families across the Strathbogie Shire, with services offered in Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie and Violet Town."

"Our nurses do a fantastic job and it is great to be able to support them with the infrastructure they need to continue to provide this integral service," Mayor McClaren said.

Maternal and Child Health Nurse, Jane Davey has been working in the area for over 20 years and said prior to upgrade the building was still mostly the original 1950's nurses' quarters when Maternal and Child Health nurses lived on site.

"It is wonderful to have our facilities up to the standard our families deserve, and to have better working conditions for nurses," Ms Davey said.

Maternal and Child Health nurses are skilled and knowledgeable in child development, as well as mental health, breastfeeding, sleeping, nutrition, autism and family violence.

If you would like to know more about Maternal and Child Health services in the Strathbogie Shire, please contact Council Offices on 1800 065 993 or email <u>info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au</u>.

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Media Contact: Senior Communications Officer, Clare Allen- 0418 336 078

Key Spokesperson: Strathbogie Shire Mayor, Cr Amanda McClaren- 0409 700 958