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Media Release

## CLARE TOY LIBRARY'S FUNDING

A great service to the community may be terminated if the current funding from the government finishes at the end of 2014.

This service provides the opportunity for families to loan toys and educational equipment for the development of young children. Children's enjoyment and learning is in the balance if this service is not extended past 2014.

The Toy Library at Clare has been in operation since 1992 and was started with the community and the Salvation Army. In 2011 the importance of Toy libraries to Early Childhood Development saw the continuation of funds by the Education Department in the last hour, providing funds for purchasing toys and overheads.

The overhead costs have risen significantly in recent times and this is now putting added financial pressure to operating this service.

Toy Libraries have been in our communities for many years and our children's needs for learning and having access to these facilities have not changed.

Many of these items would not be available to children if it was not for the Toy Library. With the very expensive costs for parents to actually purchase toys for their children's enjoyment and learning opportunities it is far more beneficial for the parents to "borrow" toys and then rotate them for the child's enjoyment.

Many volunteer's help run this service, and it provides toys for loan to not only Clare but towns as far away as Jamestown. Not only do the general public loan toys but also Child Minding Centres, Kindergartens and other community groups.

Funding the Clare Toy Library needs to continue well into the future and I have written to the Minister strongly opposing any discontinuation to this service. Certainty for continued funding of the Clare Toy library needs to be ensured well into our future.

Geoff strongly requests that the Minister shows confidence in the continuing operation of the Toy Library and extend the funding now, prior to the State Election, to give the communities involved some confidence in the continued operation of this great centre.

Geoff Brock MP  
Member for Frome