

Minister Jennifer Rankine

Minister for Education and Child
Development

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development

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Students and families to benefit as Port Pirie celebrates official openings

Celebrations are in full swing in Port Pirie today with official openings at the new Children's Centre and John Pirie Secondary School.

Education and Child Development Minister Jennifer Rankine will visit the new \$1.1 million Port Pirie West Children's Centre and John Pirie Secondary School to see the newly constructed administration building.

"The Children's Centre is a huge step forward for the community – it brings together the existing kindergarten and child care centre and creates a one-stop-shop for families," Ms Rankine said.

"It means an easy transition for children from child care and early learning, right through to preschool and then Port Pirie West Primary School.

"The early years of children's lives are the most influential, so it is vital to have the best learning environment for children in these formative years."

Regional Development Minister and Member for Frome Geoff Brock said the new Children's Centre will go a long way to ensuring that children and families have access to the support and services they need.

"Not only do these facilities look fantastic, but they will give children and young people the opportunity to learn and develop in modern and well-equipped surrounds," Mr Brock said.

Construction of the Children's Centre was completed in August. It contains consulting rooms, a new reception area, upgraded offices and a staff room. It also has a large community group activity space, which can be divided into smaller learning areas, as well as kitchen facilities and a paved and grassed outdoor area.

The \$3.9 million administration building at John Pirie Secondary School includes a new student services area, space for student counsellors and modern staff workspaces.

The building was completed in November last year, while surrounding landscaping was finished in February this year.

It is estimated that 27.5 FTE positions were created as a result of construction of both facilities.