



Minderoo welcomes Minister Birmingham to Challis Parenting and Learning Centre

Media Release

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The Minderoo Foundation is pleased to host Federal Minister for Education and Training Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham at the Challis Community Primary School in Armadale today. The Challis Parenting and Early Learning Centre (CPELC) is located with the school and gives children and their caregivers access to prenatal, child health and family services in one place.

The outreach model employed at Challis engages families in the catchment area from the birth of their children, with the aim of providing access to education and health services and ultimately, the best chance for children to thrive in school and beyond.

Minderoo has been investing in the [CPELC](#) since 2012. Minderoo CEO Nicola Forrest said the 'one-stop-shop' approach to early childhood development and education adopted at both the school and the centre reflected best-practice evidence and research in action.

"By providing services not just to children, but also the whole family, we support strong cognitive, social, emotional and physical development of our children," Mrs Forrest said. "That way, they will be ready for school when it is time to walk through the gates on the first day."

Minister Birmingham will tour the Centre and meet Acting Principal Ms Louise Donovan.

Minderoo's commitment to early childhood development and education has included engagement and consultation with the Federal government on the development of the [Connected Beginnings](#) trial that has been allocated \$20 million. Due to start from 1 July this year, the Connected Beginnings trial is a critical opportunity for the Federal Government to support community-led efforts both for wrap-around services and to demonstrate new ways of working.

"The funding will help consolidate efforts at the ground level while shining a light on the way policy can be adjusted to better support collaborative efforts," Mrs Forrest said.

"Minderoo's philanthropy acts like risk capital, building the evidence base around new ways of thinking and working. Minderoo's vision is to see integrated service delivery models become the norm not the exception across Australia," Mrs Forrest said. "We hope Connected Beginnings is the start of that."

"Minderoo welcomes the announcement of the first Connected Beginnings trial site at Alice Springs, and any further adoption of measures outlined in Creating Parity that support ending the disparity between both Indigenous and vulnerable populations across Australia," Mrs Forrest said.

Learn more about the Minderoo Foundation's philanthropy and early childhood [work](#) at www.minderoo.com.au

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