



MEDIA RELEASE

Amanda Rishworth MP
Federal Member for Kingston

16/7/10

Hackham West Children's Centre to share in \$10.5 million of new funding to continue peer support program

Amanda Rishworth MP, Member for Kingston welcomed the announcement that the Gillard Government is continuing to deliver a peer support group for parents and carers of children with disability at Hackham West Children's Centre.

Ms Rishworth said "The support group at Hackham West Children's Centre is one of 262 across Australia sharing in \$10.5 million under the popular MyTime program.

"The peer support group provides much-needed support and respite for local families. Under the MyTime program parents attend up to 26 fortnightly peer support sessions a year, where they are able to take time out to talk to others about caring for a child with disability.

"It is also an opportunity for parents and carers to meet with local health professionals and get advice on how to support their child and reduce stress on them and their families.

"A play helper looks after the children while the parents and carers meet, providing much-needed respite for parents and carers."

Previously the MyTime program focused its support on local families of children with disability under six years of age. Ms Rishworth said she is delighted that this funding extension will now give local families with children up to 16 years old access to regular peer support.

For more information about the *MyTime* program visit www.mytime.net.au.