

Report released

The second stage of feedback and submissions into a children and young people's welfare report recently released by childhood services provider, Good Beginnings, will soon be under way.

The authors of the report, which offers a snapshot of maternal and child health statistics, early development, nutrition and emotional health, education and achievement, school completion and job readiness across East Gippsland, now seek comment on its findings. One of the report's authors, Good Beginnings' state manager Jodie White, said Good Beginnings and its partner organisation hoped to close the data gaps found when information was being drawn together.

"This data shows us that in many areas, progress is being made," she said.

"We need to continue to work together to build on these achievements."

Copies of the booklet are expected to be delivered to schools, social support agencies and various stakeholder groups over the coming weeks.

The State of East Gippsland's Children and Youth Report report revealed startling new figures into a jump in cases of report-



Member for Gippsland East Tim Bull, Minister for Higher Education and Skills Peter Hall, president of Buchan Neighbourhood House committee of management Suzanne Davies, East Gippsland Shire Council mayor Cr Mark Reeves and Buchan Neighbourhood House and Learn Local coordinator Evelyn Schmidt at the launch of two new technology projects to be moderated from Buchan Neighbourhood House. K147-255

Buchan gets an IT boost

Buchan Neighbourhood House last week received a funding boost of \$125,000 to deliver two projects that will provide greater training opportunities for people living in isolated Gippsland communities.

Minister for Higher Education and Skills, Peter Hall was in Buchan with Member for Gippsland East, Tim Bull last Thursday for the announcement and to launch the projects at Buchan Neighbourhood House (BNH).

"The Gippsland Learn and Connect will develop an online delivery model which will offer training opportunities to remote Gippsland communities," Mr Hall said.

As Minister for Adult Education, Mr Hall said it was most rewarding to see a small community such as Buchan sharing skills and experience with other communities.

BNH coordinator Evelyn Schmidt said being an isolated, rural, remote community the staff were keen to embrace new technologies as soon as opportunities became available.

"Initially had to find tutors and get enough

participants to make up classes and we often had small numbers," Ms Schmidt said.

"Then realised we had a team of three or four people who could run a regional project. Now are trying to get these skills and knowledge into other Learn Local Centres.

"Then we could run a beginners computer class in Buchan with one tutor for the region.

"Our generation and older are digitally illiterate this is changing fast. We are now working with local TAFE and other training organisations technology is our future and internet is 'sometimes' our friend," Ms Schmidt said.

The second project, 180 Degrees of Reflection: Networking Modernisation in Gippsland will develop a support network for training providers to promote quality and share ideas and resources.

Mr Bull said these projects were great examples of what could be achieved by people who were determined to bring opportunities to their communities.

"These two projects are using technology to break down barriers," he said

New home for Nungurra

The old youth accommodation services of Meerindoo in Day Street that until recently helped young homeless people has been replaced with a bright, modern facility on Dalmahoy Street, Bairnsdale, known as Nungurra Youth Accommodation Services.

The new facilities, a vast improvement on Meerindoo, were officially opened last Friday



Member for Gippsland East, Tim Bull, officially opened the new Nungurra Youth Accommodation Services building in Dalmahoy Street Bairnsdale