

MEDIA RELEASE

Garran Early Learning and Intervention Centre reopens for Canberra children and families

14 September 2026

Communities at Work will formally mark the reopening of Garran Early Learning and Intervention Centre (ELIC) this week, welcoming Canberra children and families back to a valued early learning and intervention service.

The Centre supports children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Global Developmental Delay (GDD), bringing together early childhood education, individualised support and collaboration with families and allied health professionals.

The reopening is being delivered as a pilot initiative to refine a sustainable service model that provides meaningful, coordinated support for children and families well into the future. The pilot has been made possible through a partnership between Communities at Work, the John James Foundation and Capital Region Community Services, with each organisation contributing expertise and support to help establish a strong foundation for the Centre's future operation.

Communities at Work Chief Executive Officer Lesley Jordan said the reopening marked an important milestone for the Canberra community and reflected the need for practical, family-centred approaches that help children access the right support earlier and closer to home.

"Garran ELIC is about creating a place where children and families feel welcomed, understood and supported. Through this pilot, we have an opportunity to test and refine an integrated model that brings families, educators and therapists together around each child," Ms Jordan said. "That collaboration is critical to understanding each child's strengths, needs and goals, and to building consistent support in the everyday settings where children live, learn and grow. By learning from this pilot, we can help inform a sustainable approach that strengthens early support for families and aligns with the broader direction of child and family support reform."

Garran ELIC will provide an integrated model of early learning and developmental support, where children can learn, grow and thrive in a nurturing, inclusive environment. Through a combination of high-quality early childhood education and tailored intervention supports, the program is designed to strengthen each child's development, participation and wellbeing during the critical early years.

Enrolments are now open, with a limited number of places available. Families seeking a supportive, evidence-informed environment for their child are warmly encouraged to connect with the team, visit the centre, and explore whether Garran ELIC is the right fit for their family's needs and aspirations. For further information or enrolment enquiries, please contact the Centre Manager, **Ms Elizabeth Borger**, at garranelic@commsatwork.org or call **6110 2444**.

The reopening of Garran Early Learning and Intervention Centre marks an important milestone in the broader vision for the Garran precinct. This pilot will help shape the development of a connected community hub that brings together early learning, therapeutic services, specialist supports and family-centred programs for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Global Developmental Delay (GDD) and other developmental needs.

By creating an integrated hub where education, intervention and family support work together, Garran aims to provide children with the best possible start in life while empowering families through coordinated, accessible and holistic support. The long-term vision is to build a sustainable centre of excellence that improves outcomes for children, strengthens family wellbeing, and helps every child thrive, belong and participate fully in their community.

About Communities at Work

Communities at Work is one of the ACT region's leading not-for-profit community service organisations, supporting people across all stages of life through connected services that help individuals, families and communities thrive.

Our work spans early education and care, out of school hours care, school holiday programs, family day care, special assistance youth education, vocational training, emergency food and clothing support, community development, venue hire and community transport. Together, these services reflect our long-standing commitment to strengthening social connection, increasing opportunity and responding to the changing needs of the Canberra community.

At the heart of our work is a commitment to safe, high-quality early learning and education. Across our Children's Services, we create nurturing, inclusive and engaging environments where children feel secure, are supported to learn and develop confidence, and build strong foundations for lifelong wellbeing and learning.

Through Galilee School, our independent special assistance school, we provide flexible, individualised education for young people in Years 7 to 12 who have experienced adversity. Through our Registered Training Organisation, Cple (RTO 88148), we also deliver nationally recognised qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care and Business, helping build workforce capability and pathways into meaningful employment.

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