

# MEDIA RELEASE

## For immediate release

From: Annie Collison, Porter Novelli on behalf of Mercy Health

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### MERCY HEALTH OPENS WHITTLESEA EARLY PARENTING CENTRE

Mercy Health has today opened the Woi-wurrung-yagila-wulumperi, Whittlesea Early Parenting Centre (WEPC).

One of only three early parenting centres in Victoria, the WEPC will provide crucial day-stay and longer residential-stay programs for children aged up to four years old. The centre will aim to improve the health, well-being and developmental outcomes of children by accompanying parents as they learn new strategies and skills.

Mercy Health Chief Executive Officer, Angela Nolan, said the WEPC was a fantastic addition to the Whittlesea community as it provides a much-needed local service closer to home.

“The Whittlesea Early Parenting Centre will provide our Mercy Health team with the opportunity to equip parents with strategies to achieve their parenting goals. We are looking forward to supporting and serving parents and children in the Whittlesea community through their foundational years,” Ms Nolan said.

Whittlesea Early Parenting Centre Acting Manager and Director of Nursing, Anna Seaborn, said the opening is celebrated with the WEPC team looking forward to providing an essential service which will help children flourish.

“These centres play a vital role supporting the development of healthy, happy, safe and thriving babies and toddlers. We’re proud to be opening Victoria’s third Early Parenting Centre in Whittlesea,” Ms Seaborn said.

Health Infrastructure Minister Mary-Anne Thomas recently toured the new centre, and reflected on the importance this centre would have on the local community.

“The birth of a new child is one the most precious moments for any parent - but it can also be a stressful and difficult time and this new centre will help hundreds of families in the northern suburbs with sleep and settling issues every year,” Minister Thomas said.

For more information on the WEPC visit: <https://health-services.mercyhealth.com.au/our-health-services/whittlesea-early-parenting-centre/>

**ENDS**

#### **ABOUT MERCY HEALTH:**

Mercy Health is a Catholic organisation grounded in a 2,000-year tradition of caring for others. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Health is made up of approximately 10,000 people who provide acute and subacute hospital care, aged care, mental health programs, maternity and specialist women’s health services, early parenting services, home care services and health worker training and development.



Mercy Health is proud to be recognised as an Employer of Choice for Gender Equality by the WGEA.

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