



SENATOR THE HON SIMON BIRMINGHAM

Minister for Education and Training
Senator for South Australia

Tim Wilson MP

FEDERAL LIBERAL MEMBER FOR GOLDSTEIN

MEDIA RELEASE

5 September 2017

Goldstein pre-schoolers get head start in STEM

Pre-schoolers in Goldstein will be amongst the first in Australia to be introduced to science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM) through a new series of fun, play-based apps.

Tim Wilson MP for Goldstein confirmed Kilvington Grammar School, Livingston Kindergarten and Olympic Avenue Kindergarten were part of 100 selected to be part of the Turnbull Government's innovative Early Learning STEM Australia (ELSA) pilot.

"Congratulations to Kilvington Grammar School, Livingston Kindergarten and Olympic Avenue Kindergarten for being selected in the trial and commitment to introducing their pre-schoolers to new and exciting learning opportunities," Tim Wilson MP said.

"We want to help children explore new ideas and skills in science, technology, engineering and maths that will in turn boost their literacy and numeracy."

Tim Wilson MP said the first app would introduce the concepts of sorting, ordering, patterns and representations through activities including creating decorations and organising food onto different plates, all within the theme of 'celebration'.

"This new \$6 million program will give our littlest learners the opportunity to develop numeracy skills and scientific curiosity that will set them up for the rest of their schooling," Tim Wilson MP said.

"With employment trends showing 75 per cent of Australia's fastest growing careers demand skills in digital literacy and STEM it is wonderful to see the curiosity of children in Goldstein is being encouraged early in their development."

The announcement follows the success of the Turnbull Government's Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) apps in introducing Goldstein pre-schoolers to a language other than English.

Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham said independent analysis released recently showed the apps were effective in introducing new languages to preschool children, raising their awareness of other cultures, and engaging their interest in learning different languages.

"Three quarters of educators stated they have more confidence in incorporating language learning into their preschools after implementing the ELLA trial. But more pleasing still, close to 90 per cent of educators expected children to continue to demonstrate an interest in learning about additional languages beyond the completion of the program," Minister Birmingham said.

"We're learning from the success of the ELLA program which we've supported with \$15.7 million in funding to roll it out to more than 1,800 preschools and 61,000 children."

The ELSA pilot commences in Term 1 next year. For more information and a full list of selected preschools visit:
www.elsa.edu.au

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'W'.

Tim Wilson MP
Federal Liberal Member for Goldstein

Media Contact: Daniel Redman | daniel.redman@aph.gov.au | (03) 9557 4644