



Australian Government

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**



28 February 2019

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## **CONSTRUCTION STARTS: NORTH BRISBANE'S AUTISM HUB**

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**North Brisbane will become home to a world-class autism hub, with \$4.5 million in Australian Government funding delivering early intervention for up to 60 children per year and capacity for research, training and outreach services.**

To mark the commencement of construction, Member for Dickson Minister Peter Dutton MP and Member for Petrie Mr Luke Howarth joined AEIOU Foundation's Founding Director Dr James Morton OAM in breaking the ground today, Thursday 28 February at 10.30am.

With waitlists for intensive therapy extending to up a year for young children with autism in the area, the centre is a blessing; it will eliminate the waiting period, and also serve as a hub for families in need of support and expert advice.

AEIOU CEO Alan Smith commends the Australian Government for investing in the futures of young children with autism.

"This demonstrates commitment to young families, and the community. Early intervention is life-changing. Not only does it improve the lives of individuals as well as their families, it also has a positive effect on our economy long-term; for every dollar invested in a young child with autism, there is an \$11 dollar return. Just as importantly, our communities are richer for the increased participation of these individuals," Mr Smith said.

Located at Attunga Street, Bald Hills and operated by AEIOU Foundation, the land is offered on a peppercorn lease by the Anglican Schools Commission. Designed by Buchan Architects, the Hub will be constructed by Hutchinson Builders. The centre is expected to open in December 2019.

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### **ABOUT AEIOU Foundation:**

AEIOU Foundation is a leading provider of early intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), providing evidence-based therapy and education. This family-focused service provides every child with the best opportunity to gain vital independence and achieve their full potential. Operating in Queensland and South Australia, AEIOU enrolls children aged 2 to 6 years.

**For more information about AEIOU Foundation visit [www.aeiou.org.au](http://www.aeiou.org.au).**

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