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MEDIA RELEASE

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KOOYONG PRESCHOOLERS GET HEAD START IN STEM

Preschoolers in Kooyong 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.

Carey Grammar ELC Kew and Minifie Park Early Childhood Centre Balwyn were among 100 preschools selected to be part of the Turnbull Government's innovative Early Learning STEM Australia (ELSA) pilot.

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.

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.

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'.

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 Kooyong 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 Kooyong preschoolers to a language other than English.

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.

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

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