

Jaclyn Symes

MEMBER FOR NORTHERN VICTORIA

PICK MY PROJECT

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

To whom it may concern,

It is a pleasure to provide a letter of support for Kidding Around Australia's Bush Bush Playgroup Program proposal for Pick My Project.

I have personally met with the Ms Georgina Dymock, who has taken me through her proposal and it is impossible not to get excited about it.

Ms Dymock has clearly articulated her vision of bringing a friendly and inclusive play and learn environment to Mitchell Shire families through a mobile playgroup, she has outlined the countless benefits for children aged 0-6 during this vital developmental stage, as well as for parents and carers.

Connecting children and families with their community through outside nature play activities, is truly a wonderful concept that will be welcomed by many parents and carers in the fast growing Mitchell Shire municipality.

I am particularly impressed by the mobility of the program and the idea that the program will be accessible to different townships.

I hear many stories from stay-at-home parents about the isolation, with lack of transport options and cost factors preventing them from regularly travelling to larger townships to access a variety programs for their kids.

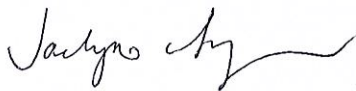
The Bush Bus will come to their town and adapt to local needs and this is would be most welcomed, by the smaller towns in particular.

Mitchell Shire stretches from peri-urban Melbourne to country towns. It is a wonderfully vibrant and diverse community, however has its share of social disadvantage, family violence, mental health and other health issues that impact on residents, it is therefore vital that we look to implement innovative programs, strategies and events to improve the lives and opportunities for locals – particularly our young people.

The Bush Bus Playgroup Program of course will be filled with fun, mud and leaves but it has the potential to support and connect many families in need of help.

Thank you for your consideration of Kidding Around Australia's application, I am confident this proposal will attract a lot of local interest and support – I know this as a Member of Parliament representing the area, but also as a local mother, who knows the struggle of seeking out enriching, educational and affordable activities to keep young children occupied.

Yours sincerely



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