

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Playground stimulates development

King River's new sensory playground is showing the way for play facilities in the Great Southern.

South West MLC Colin Holt officiated at the formal opening of the playground on Thursday 12 May and praised the thinking behind the King River Recreational Club project as a demonstration model of a play facility that would stimulate the development of children by more fully engaging the senses of touch, smell and hearing.

Royalties for Regions funding of \$38,000 through the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) supported the playground project at the King River Hall.

The project also attracted funding from Lotterywest, the City of Albany and Albany Community Bank (Bendigo Bank). The King River Recreational Club put in some funds and contributed in-kind support, and the Great Southern Institute of Technology contributed assistance with the landscaping.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said that, as a demonstration model, the playground would help other playgroups within the region understand the benefits of sensory playgrounds for the development of children under four.

"The King River playground uses a range of materials offering a variety of textures, scents, sounds and visually stimulating layouts and pictures," Mr Manning said.

"It incorporates a native bush tucker garden and the group has plans to develop a bush trail from the playground down to the King River.

"Children using the King River playground will enjoy their play and will develop their minds and senses as they explore this stimulating environment," Mr Manning said.

The playground is surrounded by a pool-safe fence and is largely covered by shade sails and verandas for the protection of the children.



Building partnerships for regional prosperity



The King River Playgroup uses the hall five days a week for playgroup sessions with 47 member families and more than 75 children each week.

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Building partnerships for regional prosperity

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