



back



A childcare centre to be built in the heart of Oonoonba will cater for children and families of all abilities

MAKING learning accessible and inclusive is the aim of the newest facility earmarked for The Village.

Called ASTI – A Step Towards Independence – the new centre will cater for up to 60 children from newborns to school-age and is taking registrations ahead of its opening early next year.

In welcoming the new centre, Minister for Disability Services, Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland and Member for Mundingburra, Coralee O'Rourke, said the centre would be designed and fitted out to be inclusive of all children.

"This childcare centre will stand out from the rest by offering an architecturally designed, bright and beautiful daycare that caters for all children, but especially those in wheelchairs," Ms O'Rourke said.

"The centre is designed with an

outdoor space that will be filled with equipment to fascinate, invigorate and stimulate young minds including 'The Loop', a circular footpath for

children in wheelchairs to access all areas of the playground."

ASTI owner and operator Asti Savage was inspired to open the centre due to her own experiences – as a paraplegic she understood more than anyone the need to create an inclusive environment.

"I am a mum of two kids and I am in a wheelchair so I have first-hand experience of the difficulties these children and families face," she said.

"A Step Towards Independence will be filled with qualified staff and carers that will take each and every step with the children, guiding them to their own unique form of independence."

Economic Development Queensland general manager Greg Chemello welcomed the centre, a

great convenience that is set to expand not only for residents of The Village but also those in neighbouring suburbs.

"The location of the child care centre, on the corner of Riveredge Boulevard and Holyoak Ave, is very convenient for people who will be dropping off and picking up children," Mr Chemello said.

"The Village is also currently

accepting expressions of interest to build a small retail or commercial building next to the child care centre which will be ideal for busy parents as they will be able to pick up their children and everyday items."

ASTI childcare centre, which will also be energy efficient and feature a fruit and vegetable garden, is accepting registrations.



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Page 2 of 2

▲
back

At a glance

SIZES: Starting at 250sqm

PRICES: From \$143,000

LOCATION: Off Abbott St, Oonoonba

OPEN: 7 days from 9.30am to 4.30pm

PHONE: 1300 650 689

WEBSITE: thevillagetownsville.com.au

In the area

The Village was developed from 2011 by the Economic Development Queensland and is growing into a substantial community with about 260 homes built in the estate. The development has a further 19 stages and about 740 homes scheduled for release before completion planned for 2021. It boasts a city-fringe, riverfront location that has retained established old trees within parkland landscaping.

Check it out

For information on The Village register your interest with The Village Sales and Information Centre by calling 1300 650 689, email info@thevillagetownsville.com.au or visit the sales centre on Riveredge Boulevard, Oonoonba. There are also two display homes within The Village, by S&P Constructions and Ellis Constructions: for details go to thevillagetownsville.com.au.

