

Thursday 8 May 2014

Media Release

Portarlington Primary makes its mark for healthier children

Reduced traffic congestion and healthier, happier children will be the result if all goes to plan with the Portarlington Primary School 'Safe Active Travel' markers launched today.

Cr Andy Richards, who holds Council's Portfolio for Active Transport, said the markers have been installed as a way of promoting safe active travel to school for children who might otherwise be dropped off at the school gate.

"Positioned along two designated 'safe routes' at 1km and 500 metres, the idea is that parents will drop their children off at a marker and they will walk, skate, scoot or ride the remaining distance," he said.

Cr Richards said the launch of the markers was an important milestone for Portarlington Primary School, which has been working on initiatives to improve safety around the school since 2011.

"Today is a testament to what can be achieved with hard work and determination," Cr Richards said. "Without the dedication of the staff and parents of Portarlington Primary School, we would not be celebrating this achievement today."

Cr Lindsay Ellis, who represents Coryule Ward, said funding for the project was received through a VicHealth Walk to School grant in 2013. The school was also supported by a strong partnership with Bellarine Community Health, Healthy Together Geelong, Be Active and the City of Greater Geelong.

"The launch of the markers is one part of a bigger push from the school to improve the health and wellbeing of their students and the broader community. "It will be great to see other schools follow in their footsteps," Cr Ellis said.

"Portarlington Primary is registered as part of the Healthy Together Geelong Achievement Program, which provides support to schools to become health promoting, and plans to implement Victoria Walks Smart Steps curriculum resources with a walking theme that takes learning into the neighbourhood," he said.

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