

CSL celebrates first anniversary of workplace childcare centre

Melbourne, Australia – CSL Limited today celebrated the first anniversary of its Thinking Kids Children's Centre, an early childhood education and care centre at CSL's Parkville site in Victoria.

In its inaugural year, the \$4.8 million state-of-the-art centre is ahead of its 18 month full utilisation target, with enrolment currently at 72%. There are 168 children aged up to six years enrolled at the Centre, representing both children of CSL employees and children from families in the local community.

For Jill Lever, Senior Vice President of Human Capital at CSL Limited, the creation of the Thinking Kids Children's Centre has been rewarding and enlightening.

"CSL's decision to provide a work-based childcare service was made after a survey showed that a significant number of our women were not returning to work after maternity leave," explained Ms Lever.

However, an analysis of use conducted by CSL to mark the first anniversary show that it is not only working mums who are benefiting.

"While our primary goal was to make it easier for mothers to return to work, we have actually seen that close to half of all CSL employees using the centre have been fathers.

"We now know that a centre like this supports our attraction and retention of both female and male employees who have childcare needs, and reduces one area of stress allowing them to be more productive when at work," she said.

Tim Karla, father of two year old Chiza, has found the proximity of the childcare centre in his workplace a huge advantage for their family and in assisting his partner Geraldine continue her career following maternity leave.

"It is a beautiful centre and I particularly love the time I spend with Chiza each day commuting to work.

"I can drop down to see her anytime and the knowledge that she is not far from my office alleviates my partner's worries while she is at work too," he said.

Minister for Early Childhood and Child Care the Hon Kate Ellis MP, attending the Centre's anniversary celebrations, said CSL was one of a number of Australian companies leading the way in promoting gender equality in workplaces.

"CSL's investment in the Thinking Kids Children's Centre demonstrates a strong commitment to providing a flexible and supportive workplace that provides equal opportunity for all. Organisations providing benefits like this one will reap social and financial benefits for the business, employees and their local communities."

The Centre is managed by Early Childhood Management Services (ECMS), a recognised leader in early childhood education and care with 15 years experience and over 50 services throughout Melbourne.

Media Contact

Jemimah Pentland, Senior Manager Communications

Phone: +61 3 9389 1668 or +61 412 635 483

Photo and interview opportunities:

Minister Kate Ellis, Jill Lever, Bernie Nott, CSL employee Tim Karla and children of the centre will be cutting a birthday cake and participating in other activities.