

# Tertiary funding promise

Uni study pushed as an option

KATHLEEN Jackson never thought she was cut out for university.

But in her 30s, she's now studying nursing at Griffith University's Logan Campus and, as the first in her family to go to university, is a proud role model for her children.

"If I could turn back time, I would have gone to uni straight out of school," she said. "At the time, I didn't think I was smart enough to go, but now there are all of these programs to make the pathway easier."

Federal Labor last week promised an extra \$174 million to ensure more people in Ms Jackson's shoes, including adult learners and those from disadvantaged backgrounds, would be able to attend university or TAFE.

Rankin MP Jim Chalmers

said only 17.1 per cent of people aged 25-34 in the Logan area had a bachelor's degree or higher — less than half the 35 per cent national average. "That needs to change," Mr Chalmers said.

"Higher education shouldn't just be for people from the wealthiest families or the fanciest suburbs."

Mr Chalmers said the money would be for mentoring, support, and other specialised programs.

Griffith University manager for student equity, outreach and transition Kwan Borden, said the programs were about raising aspirations for university study, so people could see university study as an option.

"The programs are really about raising aspirations for university study," he said.



Charlie Setter-Chang with dad Chris Setter at the AEIOU playground at Logan.

## Hope for autistic children

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HOPE and having fun were the key messages when a new centre for children with autism opened at Meadowbrook adjoining the Griffith University Logan Campus site today.

The new centre, operated by AEIOU Foundation for Children with Autism, will be the learning hub for 22 children from Logan and surrounds. It was made possible with \$2 million

from state and federal governments.

Dad Chris Setter said his three-year-old son Charlie was loving the playground and the learning environment at AEIOU.

He said his son had not wanted to socialise with others and had formed some repetitive behaviours before starting at AEIOU about seven months ago.

"Before long at AEIOU, he was showing us the door to leave," Mr Setter said.

"We have also seen a

steady improvement in his social skills. Not to mention he was toilet trained within the first few months and, excitingly, made his first friend, which was such a pleasant surprise for us.

"This was the first non-family member Charlie has shown a true interest in.

"This was the most valuable change we have seen in Charlie since he started at AEIOU. He is increasingly willing to communicate and show his personality."

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## Cop runs for blind golfer

IT was a long stretch but when Beenleigh Police Citizens Youth Club branch manager Sergeant Mark Haestier completed his run-a-thon, he had raised \$373 to help blind golfer Glenn Niciejewski.

Sgt Haestier said he was a little disappointed the fundraising fell short of the \$1000 he had planned but said it was greatly appreciated.

Mr Niciejewski went to Perth this week to compete in the Blind WA Open. Winners in the fundraising draw were announced at Meadowbrook Golf Club

## Professor in Griffith role

GRIFFITH University has appointed Professor Carolyn Evans as the university's next Vice Chancellor and President.

Professor Evans, pictured, is Deputy Vice Chancellor (Graduate and International) and Deputy Provost at Melbourne. She has a doctorate from Oxford University where she was a Rhodes Scholar. She won the Fulbright Senior Scholarship.



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