News release issued 23 May 2012

Mobil grant helps build learning garden at South Kingsville Pre-School

South Kingsville Pre-School is moving ahead with plans for an inspirational sensory garden thanks to funding received under Mobil Altona Refinery’s Bright Future Grants.

The $4,000 grant enables the kindergarten community to bring this much-anticipated project to life, with parent working bees planned for the coming months.

‘The kindergarten has a big emphasis on nature and play-based learning and this funding allows us to extend that philosophy into our outside area,’ says South Kingsville Pre-School Director, Elissa Stafford.

‘We are a community kindergarten run by qualified educators with a volunteer committee of parents managing operations. Our budgets are always very tight, so funding like this is such a windfall. Everyone is absolutely over the moon.’

The Mobil Bright Future Grants seek to provide financial assistance to schools and kindergartens close to its Altona Refinery to support maths and science education initiatives.

The South Kingsville Pre-School Sensory Garden is aimed at extending the children’s fascination with the natural world and enhancing opportunities for exploring the foundations of science and maths.

There will be textures and patterns to touch; vegetables and herbs to taste and smell; and wind chimes and bamboo poles to generate sound. A rain gauge, weather station and sundial will inspire further exploration.

Key elements of the Sensory Garden include an arbour for growing climbing vegetables, stepping stones through a ‘dry creek-bed’, boulders and mounds for climbing over, a screened-off play zone constructed from upright bamboo poles, and a small footbridge.

The South Kingsville Pre-School currently has a number of vacancies in its 3-year-old programs. For more information please contact the kindergarten on 9399 3000, ext 1.

**Photo opportunities:** There are many wonderful opportunities to photograph our children at play. Please contact the kindergarten to arrange a time.

**Where:** South Kingsville Pre-School, 43 Paxton Street, Kingsville South.
Contact: Elissa Stafford, 0412 480 030 or 9399 3000