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Media Release

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Big Play Day as Yuelamu Child Care Centre Reopens

The Yuelamu Child Care Centre has officially reopened its doors and kids and families are flooding in!

The reopening comes after successful financial negotiations between the Central Desert Regional Council and the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. The Centre had lain empty since the NT Government handed the services back to the Commonwealth in December 2016.

Council President Adrian Dixon said the community has been waiting for a long time for the reopening. "This is great for Yuelamu. Mums and dads didn't have anywhere to take their kids when they were working or training. The beautiful new Centre was closed up with all the toys inside. We're really pleased that the Council has been able to agree on enough funding with the Commonwealth. The Child Care Centre needs to be open for the community." Mr Dixon said.

Council CEO Diane Hood said that it was a great day for Yuelamu and the Council. "It's an exciting day for Yuelamu, for the families, and the little kids. It's a safe place to socialise, to have fun and to learn. Parents will have peace of mind that their kids are safe while they're working or studying. It's also a proud day for the Council. We are excited to be once again providing early childhood services to Yuelamu" Ms Hood said.

The Council is in the process of introducing new National licensing standards to the centre's operations so that it is eligible to receive 'mainstream' Commonwealth child care subsidy. The Council is currently negotiating with the Commonwealth to ensure this 'mainstreaming' does not once again threaten the Centre's financial viability.

The Central Desert Regional Council acknowledges the financial support provided by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

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