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Two new centres planned

THE demand for more child care places could be alleviated with the announcement of two new child care centres for Gladstone.

The Ingles Group revealed it has plans to build the child care centres as part of a larger residential development.

The Ingles Group's plans for the child care centres is part of larger plan to expand in the city.

Director Jordana Ingles told The Observer yesterday the company planned to buy up more land estates in the area.

The child care centre, which complements the almost sold-out New Kaleentha Heights residential estate on Harvey Road, is expected to be open in late 2007 or early 2008.

"We do have a lessee interested, but it's too early to take enrolments," Mrs Ingles said.

"We can't reveal who the lessee is at this stage."

The child care centres will be built on a 3842 square metre portion on the northern end of the 2.5 hectare site.

The Queensland-based developer paid \$905,000 for the property.

The plan has already been given Gladstone City Council development approval.

Each centre will accommodate 75 children.

"We already have made a commitment to Gladstone and with the region growing as fast as it is, we want to meet the demands of an equally growing population," she said.

Fellow director Graeme Ingles said the company was now laying plans for the remainder of the site.

"We're a bit restricted on what can be built on the site because a lot of land is below council flood levels," Mr Ingles said.