



press clip

Sky's the limit for caring

MORPHETT VALE

Jessica Brown

A STATE heritage-listed church at Morphett Vale has been restored to its former glory for some of the region's youngest residents.

The former John Knox Free Presbyterian Church, at 7 William St, opened its doors on July 17 as the Morphett Vale Child Care Centre.

It is the second centre to be opened by Tokyo-based Global Sky Group in the south, following its take over of Nanna's Child Care Centre at Hallett Cove in April.

The centre can cater for up to 75 children aged from six weeks to five years old.

The church, which was built in 1856, sat vacant for years before Knox Constructions redeveloped it, making sure to preserve its character.

One of the centre's direct-

ors, Brenda Abbey, said Global Sky was attracted to the site's rich history.

"They loved the fact that it was part of the community and had serviced the community for all those years – now it would continue to do so in another way," she said.

Centre manager Julie Keogh said the children

would be spread across three buildings on the site – the church and an old school which have both been vacant for decades – and a new building.

Dr Abbey said a number of people had asked to take a look inside the church since it had been renovated.

"It's very different, it doesn't look like a childcare centre," she said. "It's still got the big church doors and it's still got

the timber floor. It's just so lovely to go inside because

you can feel the past."

Global Sky managing director Ko Nagata said it wanted to build on the church's heritage. "Morphett Vale repre-

sented a unique opportunity to create a distinctive childcare centre, which benefits the local community," Mr Nagata said. The centre will hold an open day some time next month.



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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

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Annabel, 8 months, with Julie Keogh at the State-heritage listed former Presbyterian church that has been transformed into a child care centre in Morphett Vale. PICTURE: AAP/MATT LOXTON