

## Extra value at Shorten pitstop

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten has promised McEwen voters better access to child health and early intervention services under a federal Labor government, pledging \$2 million for a child health hub during a visit to Sunbury Community Health (SCH) on Saturday.

Liberal candidate Chris Jermyn's attempt to gatecrash Mr Shorten's election trail pitstop went spectacularly wrong.

Accompanied by McEwen MP Rob Mitchell, Mr Shorten shook Mr Jermyn's hand on his way inside the Macedon Street health centre, joking that at least he was getting to see one leader this election.

But in what's being billed as a "Jaymes Diaz moment" - referring to a Liberal candidate who was famously unable to outline his party's position on border protection at the 2013 election - Mr Jermyn was at a loss to explain Coalition health policy in an interview afterwards, leading to his hasty retreat.

Mr Shorten said the new Sunbury hub would combine paediatric assessments with audiology, speech, occupational therapy and physiotherapy services.

Families will be able to access an onsite paediatrician and early intervention services for children with disabilities, developmental delays and autism.

The hub will be for family support and parenting groups, while National Disability Insurance Scheme-funded services will also be available for eligible children.

"Sunbury is a fast-growing urban area with a large number of young families," Mr Shorten said. "The child health hub will mean families don't miss out on the services they need for



TANEISHA, 7, WITH BILL SHORTEN

their kids and stop them having to travel into Melbourne for help, which will take pressure off these services."

SCH's existing early childhood programs help about 600 children every week.

Mr Shorten also visited Kyneton with Bendigo MP Lisa Chesters on Sunday, promising to get women's sport telecasts back on the ABC.

Matt Crossman with *The Age*