

New wing for centre

Blessed by beautiful sunshine and a large crowd, the inauguration of the new wing of the Mamma Lena Child Care Centre in Fairfield occurred on March 21.

The new wing adds much needed room plus gardens and parking to the existing centre which was officially opened in 1984.

The centre accommodates 65 children of all nationalities.

The secretary of the centre, Mario Mura, introduced the guests of hon-

our and the centre committee, after which Janice Crosio, Federal Member for Prospect, cut the ribbon and unveiled the plaque.

In her speech, Mrs Crosio highlighted the various stages of the centre. After initial refusals by council, construction commenced in 1979 and after many years of struggle, was finally finished in 1983 and officially opened in 1984 by Mrs Crosio.

It was then the turn of Minister of Education and

Training, John Aquilina, who unveiled the Terrance Plowright bronze bust of Mamma Lena - a gift from members of the Italian community.

Mamma Lena, a long-time resident of Bankstown, was seen to be moved when Mr Aquilina recounted some of her radio and newspaper work in support of the Italian community.

The centre was blessed by Father Alberico who was also on hand to bless the original centre 15 years ago.



Minister of Education and Training, John Aquilina, unveils a bronze bust of Bankstown identity, Mamma Lena, who is also pictured with her husband, Dino Gustin.