



# Boost for life

MORE than 32,000 Hunter students every year will benefit from a \$100,000 grant donated to Hunter Life Education by the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation (NPCF).

Since 1985, Hunter Life Education has provided a range of community, education and support services to help primary and secondary students make informed, healthy decisions.

NPCF chairman Michael Slater said the programs run by Hunter Life Education prepared children and young adults to make healthy choices free from the effects of drug misuse, obesity and other health and lifestyle issues.

"The funds will assist in the upgrade and refurbishment of the Hunter Life Education's educational facilities and amenities," he said.

"The equipment used at the centre is almost three decades old and to engage with today's youth you need modern technology, the charitable foundation grant will help achieve this.

"The funding will go specifically towards the installation of Smart board technology and new audio and lighting equipment to improve the quality and impact of the presentations.

"By enhancing the learning experience for students, Hunter Life Education believes this will encourage even greater usage of the centre by schools, community groups, organisations and the general community.

In addition to the technology supplied, there was also an upgrade to the playground and a new kitchen.

Hunter Life Education executive officer



**HEALTHY CHOICES:** Scott Casson, back, and front from left, Phoebe Bevan, Callum Quinn and Nathan Hiller try out the new play equipment.

David Baker said besides the benefits bought about by the upgrade in technology, another benefit of the funding was that the organisation would be able to launch a social enterprise, Harold Zone.

This would enable the raising of revenue from parties and group bookings.

"Harold Zone is a healthy alternative party option and a safe place for parents to hold play groups and parties," he said.

"One of the organisation's most recognised programs is Healthy Harold, which educates primary school children on a range of topics from healthy eating to the effects of smoking and drinking alcohol.

"We also conduct secondary school programs known as Face the Facts for year 7 to 10 students and the Responsible Choices about Alcohol program for year 11 students."

Hunter charity and not-for-profit organisations can apply for the next NPCF funding round which closes on April 8.

To make an application or to obtain further information, go to the website [newcastlepermanent.com.au](http://newcastlepermanent.com.au), phone 13 19 87 or visit a Newcastle Permanent branch.