



media release

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Jobs for Families Child Care Package – Regressive Legislation

The Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Jobs for Families Child Care Package) Bill 2015, introduced into the federal parliament today effectively removes universal access to education and care for children before preschool and flies in the face of evidence that

- The period from birth to 3 years is the most significant for brain development and lays down lifelong foundations for children’s wellbeing, learning and development across all developmental domains
- All children benefit from quality early learning environments
- Participation in quality early learning environments is a significant protective factor for at risk children and children from vulnerable backgrounds
- Universal provision of education and care is by far the most effective way to ensure participation of children in vulnerable situations
- Investment in early education also provides long term economic benefits not just for families but for communities and nations.

The impact of this change on the wellbeing of many children and their learning and developmental outcomes must not be ignored.

Dr Anne Kennedy Chairperson of CCC commented

“Under the current system every family is able to access means tested, subsidised education and care for their children for 24 hours per week. We believe that this opportunity must be maintained. The evidence is out there and has been presented to the government – investment in early childhood education is money well spent. While access to quality early childhood education for children is important for all children, the provision of universal services is widely acknowledged as the most effective way to ensure participation of vulnerable children and families.

While the provision of child care has an important role to play in workforce participation it is not in the interests of children, families, communities or the economy to separate out education and care. They are two sides of the same coin and the current policy push to do this is taking Australia backwards.”

For further comment:

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