



media release

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Call for school spending to include outside school hours care facilities

The Victorian Government's Budget pledge of unprecedented capital funding for Victorian schools provides an ideal opportunity to address the growing, and often unmet, need for outside school hours care (OSHC), the Community Child Care Association (CCC) said today.

"The \$924 million allocated in the State Budget to build and upgrade school facilities, which includes a new \$50 million Shared Facilities fund for regional and high growth areas, is a win for families and communities," CCC Executive Director Leanne Giardina said today.

"This provides an exciting opportunity for the State Government to direct resources to the growing, and often unmet need, for outside school hours care," she said.

"We therefore urge the government to ensure designated OSHC facilities are included in all new primary schools, and that OSHC needs are considered as part of upgrades planned for school sites."

Ms Giardina said the OSHC sector was struggling to cope with demand.

"Demand for after school hours places often outstrips supply, and many services operate from inadequate facilities which hampers the delivery of quality programs," she said.

The Productivity Commission's 2014 *Inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning* highlighted the gaps in the provision of OSHC services and recommended that all primary schools take responsibility for providing OSHC for their students, where demand exists for a viable service.

Ms Giardina said there were a number of benefits in schools operating their own OSHC programs, including:

- Continuity of education and care across a student's primary school years
- Increased contact and communications between a school and families
- Improved capacity for schools to support families
- The potential to build stronger, more connected school communities
- Control over the quality of the OSHC service
- OSHC services can provide a valuable income stream for schools

"Let's aim for the universal provision of quality school owned and operated OSHC services on every school site where the profits are directed back into that local community," Ms Giardina said.

CCC congratulates the Victorian Government on using the State's strong fiscal position to build a stronger more equitable future for children and families.

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