



media release

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Labor's Early Years Plan a 'game changer' for Australian families

Labor's pledge to spend \$1.7 billion on early childhood education including kindergarten for three-year-olds is a game changer, according to peak body Community Child Care Association (CCC).

'This commitment to ongoing kindergarten funding for three-year-old and four-year-old children recognises the importance of education in the early years and will make a real and lasting difference to thousands of families, children and educators across Australia,' CCC Executive Director Julie Price said.

'Labor's vision to give our youngest Australians the best possible start through play-based learning is a game changer.'

Ms Price welcomed Labor's permanent commitment to the National Partnership Agreement, ensuring children in Australia have access to 15 hours of quality early learning in the two years before school.

'Labor's recognition of early childhood education as the foundation stone of the education system is echoed in the recent *Lifting Our Game* report, which shows that all children's school results improve with two years of kindergarten.'

Ms Price said CCC was keen to hear Labor's future plans for lifting the game for *all* children.

'Children in vulnerable circumstances need access and support at all stages of early childhood, not just their kindergarten years,' she said.

Ms Price said CCC also welcomed the Victorian Labor Government's investment to attract new teachers to the early childhood workforce and to support upskilling of educators, as well as its commitment to a workforce strategy that will build the capacity of the education and care sector.

'It is also welcome news that Federal Labor is promising to raise the status of educators and teachers, ensuring that every educator receives better pay and conditions.'

Ms Price said CCC was proud to be part of ongoing conversations about the importance of the early and middle years on children's long-term development.

'However, there is a long way to go before Australia is on par with, or ahead of, our OECD counterparts including New Zealand and Denmark.'

For further comment:

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