



**Early Childhood
Australia**

A voice for young children

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Claims of Cost Increases to Childcare are Baseless say Experts

Claims that improving the quality of early childhood education and care will result in unaffordable cost increases for parents are unfounded says the nation's leading advocacy organisation for young children.

Early Childhood Australia CEO Pam Cahir says the claims are not based on solid evidence and are simply scare mongering.

"It is true that improvements in the quality of ECEC will cost money.

"But suggestions that these changes will occur immediately and cost as much as \$110 per week are misplaced and without foundation.

"Economic modelling by Access Economics shows that the reforms will actually result in minimal increases in costs for parents. They anticipate increases of \$8.67 after government subsidies.

"And the reality is that the proposed reforms will be implemented over time and will not take full effect until 2020."

Ms Cahir said that we should be looking at any increases in cost as an investment rather than a cost. Evidence accepted by the Organisation for Economic Development shows that high quality ECEC is positive for the nation's economy and overall productivity now and into the future.

"Investing in quality childcare is proven to be good for the future of our kids – but also good for the nation.

"These are formative years for our children. The care and education they receive in these years is a crucial aspect of their development and learning.

"Children that have received quality ECEC are generally better educated, healthier and happier adults who are less likely to be involved in the criminal justice and welfare systems in the future.

ECA welcomed the National Reform Agenda put forward by the government and endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments last year.

Commitments from the government to improve staff-to-child ratios for all children including babies and to support childcare workers in increasing their qualifications over time are crucial to achieving acceptable standards of quality care for all children, said Ms Cahir

"Some services have actually already started implementing aspects of the reform agenda on their own terms and without the increases in cost predicted by some."

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