



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

**OUR
VISION:
EVERY
YOUNG
CHILD IS
THRIVING
AND
LEARNING**

MEDIA RELEASE

16 December 2015

Budget savings from childcare should be re-invested in the Childcare Assistance Package

The Government has an opportunity to reinvest the savings identified in the MYEFO Budget Update to remove the barnacles from the Child Care Assistance Package, said Early Childhood Australia CEO Samantha Page today.

The savings include \$930 million from Family Day Care and \$441 million from the Child Care Subsidy.

As it stands, the 'Jobs for Families Childcare Package' could see children missing out from receiving access to two days of quality early learning, if one or both parents aren't working.

The current system provides 24 hours of Child Care Benefit regardless of parents' participation in the workforce.

Children's access to early childhood education led by qualified educators amplifies their development.

The Government has not released their modelling on how many children will not be eligible under the new rules, compared with the current system.

Though, the current system sees around 100,000 children accessing Child Care Benefit which allows children access care if one parent isn't working.

'Ideally, government support for early learning should ensure all families have access to two days per week, and then apply the activity test after that', said Ms Page.

A Senate Inquiry into the legislation supporting the Package which will Report in March.

'The success of this Package hangs in the balance, and we think there is a lot more work to do to ensure it benefits children, families and the economy.

'To be fully successful, the package would support both lifting the workforce participation of parents and getting better outcomes for all children so that they can achieve better results at school and in life', concluded Samantha Page.

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Early Childhood Australia is the peak early childhood advocacy organisation, acting in the interests of young children, their families and those in the early childhood field.