



**Early Childhood Australia**  
A voice for young children

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Government must commit to fund Childcare Package regardless of Family tax decision**

The national early childhood peak body Early Childhood Australia (ECA) today urged the Federal Government to confirm its commitment to funding the \$3.5 billion Families & Childcare Package as a wise investment in Australia's future prosperity.

"Regardless of what emerges in the negotiations around the tax payments to families, we urge all parties to maintain their support for funding the full childcare package as a necessary investment that will benefit all Australians in the long term," said Sam Page, Early Childhood Australia CEO today.

Research by [Price Waterhouse Coopers](#) last year shows that increasing participation in quality early learning by children in our lowest income brackets would add more than \$13 billion to GDP by 2050. It will also result in decreased expenditure associated with remedial education, justice and health services as a result of improved education and life outcomes for vulnerable children.

"The Families and childcare package needs to be viewed as a vital investment in Australia's future prosperity especially because of the dramatic impact quality early learning and care has on improving the life course of vulnerable and disadvantaged children, and the flow on benefits to tax payers in reduced welfare expenditure," said Ms Page.

'We are still concerned that workforce participation objectives have been placed ahead of the interests of children in the package. It is often the children whose parents aren't working that benefit the most from access to quality early learning.'

Ms Page called on the Government to consult further with the sector on the 24 hour per fortnight base subsidy for families earning under \$60,000, who do not meet the tightened activity test. The current system provides 48 hours of Child Care Benefit per fortnight.

'Children need at least two days of quality early learning to amplify their development. We would like to see the Government consult further on the base level of subsidy and consider what level of provision is practical for families while also in the best interests of children.'

#### **For more information contact**

Carolin Wenzel – 0417 668 957