



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 8 May 2015

Federal Government recognises support for those who need it most

National children's peak body Early Childhood Australia (ECA) today said the Government's investment and commitment to supporting disadvantaged children shows a recognition for the importance of early learning.

The Government has announced that it will invest an additional \$327.7 million, over four years, to provide targeted support to disadvantaged or vulnerable families through a Child Care Safety Net.

'We are pleased that the Government has given thorough consideration to the issues raised in the Productivity Commission's report and has opted to make further investments in those children and families who need it most,' said Ms Samantha Page, CEO of ECA.

'We agree that the current system is too complicated, too expensive and lacks clear objectives. This move will help to simplify the system, make it more inclusive and is a step in the right direction.'

New research from the University of Adelaide, [released yesterday](#), shows that high quality child care for children aged two and above can help close developmental gaps in children from low socio-economic backgrounds.

'Access to quality early learning amplifies children's development, especially children from disadvantaged backgrounds. While we welcome the focus on disadvantaged children, it is important that all children can access at least two days of quality early learning for their development to give them the best start at life.'

Changes in the Child Care Safety Net include new funding arrangements for Budget Based Funded early childhood services and a boost for inclusion support.

'The boost for inclusion subsidies will provide a greater level of assistance and support for children with a disability and those from diverse backgrounds to participate in critical early learning opportunities.

'We are eager to ensure the viability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services and mobile services under new funding arrangements and we look forward to working with the Government through the transition of the new programme.'

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