



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

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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday 1 September, 2016

### **Government's Child Care Package could be a real winner for children and families, with vital changes**

Peak early childhood body, Early Childhood Australia welcomed the Government's Jobs for Families Child Care Package legislation, re-introduced into the new Parliament today.

The Bill is substantially similar to the previous legislation which was proposed in the last Parliament. However, there are some technical changes including a one year delay of the Subsidy until 1 July 2018 (as foreshadowed in the Budget).

"ECA welcomes this Package being reintroduced. We think a majority of families will be better off under the new Child Care Subsidy and there will be more children accessing quality early learning services over the long term," said Samantha Page ECA CEO.

PWC modelling shows that the Package would increase real GDP by \$7.6 billion by 2050, with a net fiscal saving to the Australian Government of \$4.3 billion (in net present value terms) by 2050. A substantial part of this positive impact includes the enhanced development outcomes for children.

"The Bill still needs vital changes to ensure that the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children retain access to two days of early learning for their development," said Ms Page.

The Package, as introduced today, could see the most disadvantaged children, whose parents don't meet activity requirements, have their hours of subsidy halved from 24 to 12 per week.

"If the Government adjusted the minimum hours for the activity test, so that vulnerable children could continue to access two days of quality early learning, we would have a Package that could really deliver in reducing financial stress for families, increasing workforce participation and boosting child development," said Ms Page.

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

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*Early Childhood Australia is the peak advocacy body for children under eight, their families and early childhood professionals*