



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

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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday 25 November, 2019

### **Latest *State of Early Learning* report a 'wake-up call' for Australia to get serious about early learning**

The *State of early learning in Australia 2019* report shows sharp differences in access to affordable, high-quality early learning across the country and emphasises the need for strong federal oversight.

This report highlights the uneven access to high-quality early learning across Australia. Some young children are missing out based on the state, territory or region they live in, with the report identifying significant pockets of unmet need and problems associated with affordability.

'Just a 1.75 per cent increase in the federal government's spending on education\* would bring Australia in line with other leading English-speaking countries and deliver outcomes that benefit our nation throughout each child's educational journey and beyond,' said Early Childhood Australia (ECA) CEO Samantha Page.

Chair of Goodstart Early Learning, Michael Traill AM, noted that while much of the rest of the world is ramping up investment in early learning, the report shows Australia is at risk of falling behind, with Australia's investment in early learning below the OECD average.

'This report is a wake-up call that more needs to be done to give Australia's children the best possible start in life. It should be compulsory reading for every senior government official and business leader in the country,' Mr Traill said.

Lead writer of the report Professor Karen Thorpe said, 'Immediate action is needed to address inequity of access to high-quality early learning and work conditions of early educators as outlined in this comprehensive report.'

\*This refers to federal spending on all education, from early childhood to tertiary level.

**- ENDS -**

**Download report here.**

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*Early Childhood Australia is the peak advocacy body for children from birth to eight years, their families and early childhood professionals.*