



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 25 August 2020

FEDERAL BUDGET MUST MAKE EARLY LEARNING AFFORDABLE

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) is calling for greater investment from the Australian Government in the upcoming 2020 Budget to ensure every child in Australia has access to high-quality education and care.

'The Government has endeavoured to support the early childhood education and care sector through the pandemic. Making childcare more affordable for Australian families is the next step in ensuring that young children don't miss out on early learning,' said ECA CEO Samantha Page.

ECA is calling for an increase in the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) to 95 per cent for low-income families, to overcome cost barriers to children's participation in early childhood education and care.

'The current subsidy performs poorly for families with reduced income and work hours, which a lot of families are experiencing during this time,' Ms Page said.

'Australia cannot afford to have children falling through the cracks in the crucial years before school.'

ECA supports the latest research from the [Grattan Institute](https://www.grattan.edu.au/) to increase the CCS to 95 per cent. The additional investment would ensure every child had stable access to early education and boost the economy by generating returns of \$11 billion annually.

ECA is also calling on the Government to suspend the activity test until 30 June 2021, because it isn't fit for the current economic climate.

'After the suspension period has finished, we would also like to see the activity test reviewed as many families are likely to experience precarious workforce engagement well into 2021,' said Ms Page.

CONTINUES OVER

To view the full pre-budget submission, visit the ECA website here:

<http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/our-work/submissions-statements/>

ENDS

For interviews, contact: Katie Golding ECA Media Officer M: 0475 554 999

To download PDF version of media release, click here:

<http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/media/>

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