



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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

MEDIA RELEASE

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NATIONAL EVIDENCE INSTITUTE CAN HELP ENSURE A GREAT START TO EVERY CHILD'S EDUCATION

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) welcomes the decision of the COAG Education Council to establish Australia's first national evidence institute for education.

The national evidence institute will develop robust and practical advice for teachers and educators, including those working in early years settings.

'We already know that high-quality early learning confers lifelong benefits, especially for children in vulnerable circumstances,' said ECA CEO Samantha Page. 'The key question is: how do we ensure high quality in every early learning environment?'

Among the seven areas of the National Quality Standard, the most challenging for early childhood education and care services is *Quality Area 1: Educational program and practice*. According to the [latest data](#) from the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority, 14 per cent of early education and care services are not yet meeting the standard for educational program and practice.

'Every Australian child deserves the best start to their educational journey, from the time they first enter early learning settings,' Ms Page said.

'It's essential that researchers collaborate with early childhood teachers and educators to develop evidence-based practices for working with young children.

'The work of early childhood teachers and educators is really complex and sophisticated. So we need to ensure that all educators have the full range of pedagogical tools they need to do a great job'.

ECA congratulates the federal, state and territory governments for supporting evidence-based early learning and congratulates Dr Jenny Donovan on her appointment as inaugural director of the national evidence institute.

'We look forward to working with the national evidence institute to help deliver tangible benefits for the early learning sector,' Ms Page said.

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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.