



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 1 September 2020

EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA PROUD TO PARTNER WITH THRIVE BY FIVE CAMPAIGN

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) is pleased to join leaders, parents, workers, educators and community organisations from across Australia calling for a universally accessible early education system as part of the [Thrive By Five](#) campaign, an initiative of the Minderoo Foundation.

Attending high-quality early learning programs, delivered by qualified professional educators and teachers, sets children up for life-long learning. Effective preschool programs are proven to increase children's confidence, curiosity and capability, which helps to prepare them for a smooth transition to school.

Many people in Australia think our children are doing well and are surprised to learn that one in five Australian children are developmentally vulnerable in one or more development domains when they start school—this increases to two in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

This is not inevitable; research consistently demonstrates that children who attend early childhood education are less likely (by 33%) to be developmentally vulnerable when they start school than those who do not attend.¹

We need to increase children's access to early education so that every child has the best possible start to their education.

Australia's investment in early learning is below the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average, and families are paying too much of the cost, we need public investment to make early education more affordable for all children.

ECA has joined the Thrive By Five campaign to ensure that every child in Australia has access to high-quality early education and care.

CONTINUES OVER

¹ Early Childhood Australia & University of Queensland (2019) *State of Early Learning Report* available at: <http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/our-work/submissions-statements/state-early-learning-australia-report-2019/>

'Research shows us high-quality early education and care plays a critical role in children's development, especially through the years from birth to five when we know that 90% of brain development is occurring,' said ECA CEO Samantha Page.

The Thrive By Five campaign advocates that every child, regardless of where they live or their parent's bank balance, should have access to early education.

'A universal early education system will not only have multiple benefits for Australia's children but will increase workforce participation and government revenue,' Ms Page said.

'ECA has been advocating for many years for every child's right to thrive. We think the current campaign deserves widespread support from parents, business and governments of all persuasions.'

ECA encourages everyone to attend the Thrive By Five virtual launch event, held from 7:30 pm-9:00 pm (AEST) tonight (Tuesday 1 September).

Click [here](#) to attend the virtual event and click [here](#) to keep up to date with the campaign.

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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.