



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

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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday 10 November 2020

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA WELCOMES VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR KINDER AND LONG DAY CARE**

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) welcomes today's decision by the Victorian Government to deliver free kinder for 2021, provide additional support for long day care and out of school hours services across the state.

'COVID-19 has disrupted early learning for so many, particularly children in Victoria. We applaud the decision by Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Early Childhood Ingrid Stitt to ensure children can continue accessing quality early education as we deal with the effects of the pandemic,' said ECA CEO Samantha Page.

'We particularly welcome the support for kinder in long day care settings. Many Victorian parents choose to access kinder programs within long day care settings, which also employ qualified teachers and adhere to National Quality Standards.'

'This decision will ensure families living in Victoria can access quality early education in their chosen setting regardless of their parent's income,' added Ms Page.

ECA congratulates the Victorian Government for showing leadership on the importance of early education and care for children's development, and its role in supporting families—particularly women—return to the workforce.

ECA calls again on the federal government to address the financial pressures for these families by increasing the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) by 10-15%. This would improve affordability and help to ensure that no child misses out on early education.

'The voices calling for greater investment in early education are getting louder. It's time the federal government takes action,' said Ms Page.

**ENDS**

**CONTINUE OVER FOR CONTACT INFO AND USEFUL LINKS**

ECA CEO Sam Page is available for comment.

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

For a downloadable PDF version of the media release, click here:

[www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/media/](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/media/)

Useful links:

- The Child Care subsidy: Options for caregivers who want to work (KMPG)  
<https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/au/pdf/2020/kpmg-child-care-subsidy-report.pdf>
- Cheaper Childcare: A practical plan to boost female workforce participation (Grattan Institute)  
<https://grattan.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Cheaper-Childcare-Grattan-Institute-Report.pdf>
- Australian COVID-19 Policy Responses: Good for health equity or a missed opportunity? (ANU)  
<http://regnet.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/uploads/2020-08/2020%2008%2021%20MCHG-COVID19PoliciesHealthE.pdf>

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