



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

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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday 17 November 2020

### **IMPROVING EARLY LEARNING IN REMOTE AUSTRALIA**

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) welcomes the release of the House Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training [report](#) from its inquiry into the education of students in remote and complex environments.

The report provides a review of early childhood education and recognises the many barriers preventing young children in remote communities from accessing early education and care.

ECA CEO, Samantha Page supports the five recommendations tailored to the early education sector and is pleased to see the specific focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

‘Improving education outcomes for children in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities should be a high priority for all Australian Government’s. The latest [Family Matters Report](#) reveals that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are 28% less likely to attend early childhood education and care than non-indigenous children. This puts them at risk of being behind their peers when they start school and entrenches inequity but there is no simple solution to this; a national approach to addressing the challenges of delivering early education in remote and complex environments is needed.’

‘ECA strongly endorses the Standing Committee’s recommendation to provide up to 30 hours per week of subsidised early education and care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children through mobile services and distance education for geographically isolated families,’ added Ms Page.

ECA encourages commonwealth, state and territory government investment in quality Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled integrated early years services.

‘Careful design and delivery of quality early learning services for these children is likely to generate lifelong benefits, for both individuals and communities’ said Ms Page.

Improving early learning in remote Australia demands national attention and leadership. ECA would like to see an aligned and coordinated approach from both the state and federal level, to implement the recommendations of the committee.

**CONTINUES OVER**

ECA urges the government to accept all the recommendations and to give particular attention to the circumstances and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children with additional needs.

**ENDS**

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/)

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