



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 04 May 2022

ECA WELCOMES EARLY YEARS INVESTMENT IN THE VICTORIAN STATE BUDGET 2022/23

Under the leadership of Premier Dan Andrews, Treasurer Tim Pallas and Minister for Early Education Ingrid Stitt, the Victorian State Budget yesterday demonstrated a strong commitment to young children and their early learning experiences.

ECA welcomes the Victoria Government commitment to invest more than \$217 million to ensure that every young child has access to a high-quality early education service close to home— including funding for universal access to kindergarten from the age of three years.

The budget includes \$15 million to deliver Kinder Kits to children starting kinder in 2023 and 2024. The kits include books and other educational items like locally made puppets and games to support learning at home.

There is a welcome focus on inclusion in the Victorian Budget, with a boost to the Kindergarten Inclusion Support program and the Building Blocks Inclusion grants program to make kindergarten buildings, playgrounds and equipment across Victoria more inclusive and accessible for every child.

A new initiative to extend Kindergarten fees subsidies to children known to child protection agencies and those from families of refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds is also very welcome. 'We know that high-quality early childhood education and care can make the biggest difference for those who are most vulnerable. It is great to see an ongoing commitment to targeted initiatives that support children to thrive,' said Samantha Page, ECA CEO.

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) advocates for a strong universal platform of early childhood education and care to support all children now and into the future.

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ECA CEO Sam Page is available for comment. For interviews, contact ECA Media Officer Reshma Jayesh on 0475 554 999.

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

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