



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 15 June 2022

ECA WELCOMES THE NSW GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO SIGNIFICANT PRESCHOOL REFORMS THIS BUDGET

Early Childhood Australia (ECA), the nation's peak advocacy organisation for children, welcomes the NSW Government's investment of \$1.4 billion over four years for preschools. The investment will enable children to access preschool in a range of settings, including community or mobile settings, long day care (LDC) settings or in Department of Education programs. From 1 January 2023, NSW families will be eligible for different levels of fee relief, depending on the services they access.

Ms Samantha Page, CEO, Early Childhood Australia, who was in attendance at today's announcements, said, 'We are pleased to see the NSW Government elevate early childhood education and care in this budget. Investing in children's early learning has lifelong impacts. The preschool reforms announced today will not only improve affordability for families, they will deliver significant and lasting benefits for children.'

'As well as positively promoting children's learning and development, high-quality, play-based early learning plays a critical role in the early identification of additional support needs for children. This provides opportunities for early interventions and to assist families in accessing the supports they need', added Ms Page.

Also announced at the press conference today was a \$376.5 million investment over four years as part of the Brighter Beginnings initiative, providing children with a full range of developmental checks prior to starting school, along with digitising the Blue Book.

'The Brighter Beginnings is a broader key commitment, which will benefit nearly 500,000 children in NSW to help with better physical, emotional and social health outcomes during the first five years to ensure they get the best start to their lives.'

'We look forward to what will be an exciting year for children in the state and will be happy to collaborate in any way to support the implementation of these initiatives', added Ms Page.

The announcements were made earlier this morning by Minister for Education and Early Learning Sarah Mitchell and Treasurer Matt Kean.

ECA has been advocating from the front to ensure that every child has better access to high-quality and play-based learning in the early years in order to thrive. We will continue to advocate for a strong universal platform of early childhood education and care to support all children now and into the future.

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Patron His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

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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.