



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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

MEDIA RELEASE

16 June 2022

NSW AND VIC ANNOUNCE LANDMARK PRESCHOOL REFORMS

Early Childhood Australia (ECA), the nation's peak advocacy organisation for young children and early childhood services, welcomes today's joint statement of intent by the Premiers of New South Wales and Victorian governments signalling "the greatest transformation of early education in a generation". Together, Premier Dominic Perrottet and Premier Daniel Andrews committed that every child in New South Wales and Victoria would have access to a full year of play-based learning in the year before school, over the next ten years.

Ms Samantha Page, CEO, Early Childhood Australia, welcomed the announcement saying, 'ECA congratulates Premier Dominic Perrottet and Premier Daniel Andrews on this significant announcement today and for leading long term reforms to deliver universal access through their pre-kindergarten and pre-prep programs. We know the positive impacts that high-quality play-based early childhood education and care delivers for children. It also has important benefits for families, addressing access and affordability barriers.'

It is very promising to see the New South Wales and Victorian governments respond to the overwhelming evidence that investment in the early learning has a lasting impact. Today's announcement is a meaningful step towards ensuring that every child is learning and thriving.'

Both NSW and Victorian Governments have committed to a full year of universal pre-kindergarten or pre-prep in the year before school by 2030.

In addition, the NSW Government has committed to setting up more preschools on school sites, community preschools and long day care. While the Victorian Government have announced other additional measures including making Kindergarten free across the state and establishing 50 government operated childcare services across the state.

'The proposed changes are complex and rely on a stable and well-supported workforce. We look forward to working with both governments to support the implementation of the reforms and to ensure that they meet the needs of children and take into account the complexities of the profession and its workforce' added Ms Page.

ECA has been advocating from the front, for at least two years of high-quality play-based early learning prior to starting school, to support every child to learn and thrive. ECA 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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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.