



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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VISION:
EVERY
YOUNG
CHILD IS
THRIVING
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LEARNING**

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 02 September 2022

STRONG CONSENSUS AT JOBS AND SKILLS SUMMIT TO INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE FOR BETTER PRODUCTIVITY AND ECONOMIC OUTCOMES

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) welcomes Federal Government's commitment to a long-term vision for early childhood education and care as the first step towards supporting the early childhood education and care sector, as highlighted at the Jobs and Skills Summit September 2022 – Outcomes report.

Talking about the Summit, ECA CEO Ms Samantha Page said: 'It was encouraging to hear early childhood education and care as a priority in discussions at the Jobs and Skills Summit - it is critical that the important work that our teachers and educators do in supporting children's learning and development and in supporting families' workforce participation remain in focus.'

'The Summit discussed a range of underlying issues that drive productivity and wages, as well as strategies to address workforce shortages. There was broad consensus amongst speakers, including economists Danielle Wood and Angela Jackson, in calling for investment in early childhood education to improve education outcomes and equal opportunities - as well as reducing disadvantage and lifting workforce participation. Additional strong and consistent endorsements flowed in from industry leaders, social scientists, politicians and advocates, including the need to address complex needs such as access for First Nations children and rural/remote families', added Ms Page.

Noting the need for more to be done in the early childhood education sector, Ms Page said: 'Concrete commitments beyond the previously announced measures are missing in the immediate actions published today. However, we are optimistic that the strong message underlining the need to strengthen the sector, expressed at the Summit, was heard and that the long-term commitment indicated in the report will translate into appropriate investment at the upcoming Federal Budget. ECA will work collaboratively with the Federal Government and other stakeholders to ensure that concrete strategies are in place to build a stable workforce while securing high-quality education outcomes for all children to thrive.'

ECA will also keenly follow the work of the newly established Women's Economic Equality Taskforce and contribute to the Productivity Commission inquiry to ensure that early childhood education is a priority alongside gender equity initiatives in relation to improving wages and the skills agenda.

ECA look forward to making a submission to the Jobs and Skills White Paper that will follow the Summit to apprise of the needs of the early education workforce, who will play a key role in supporting any reforms to the sector.

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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.