



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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VISION:
EVERY
YOUNG
CHILD IS
THRIVING
AND
LEARNING**

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 26 September 2022

ECA WELCOMES GOVERNMENT'S FOCUS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE FOR INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

Early Childhood Australia (ECA), the nation's peak advocacy body representing young children and early childhood services, welcomes reforms announced today by the government that will see the hours of subsidised care available to Indigenous children extended to 36 hours per fortnight. ECA is hopeful that the government's investment in the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership between the federal, state and territory governments and Indigenous representatives will deliver a more streamlined process and remove barriers that may limit access.

Ms Samantha Page, CEO of Early Childhood Australia, said: 'It is promising to see the federal government's collaborative approach to working with the state and territory governments, alongside SNAICC and other Indigenous representatives. This will help in appropriately addressing the barriers to access in the current process and deliver better outcomes for children.'

Ms Page added, 'Any measure that improves access and simplifies the Child Care Subsidy system is welcome; however, we know that two in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children start school developmentally vulnerable. Long-term access to at least three days of high-quality early education for three- and four-year-old children will ensure that they are developmentally ready to commence school and have adequate support, should they need it.'

ECA is eager to understand the interface between federal and state and territory governments' subsidy programs to ensure that the full potential of the hours available to families is unlocked and there's ease of access so no child misses out.'

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

For a downloadable PDF version of the media release, please 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.