



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

Monday, 17 October 2022

ECA WELCOMES AUSTRALIAN GOVT's COMMITMENT TO INCREASE CAP ON PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

Early Childhood Australia (ECA), the nation's peak advocacy organisation for children and early childhood services, welcomes the Australian Government's announcement to gradually increase the cap of paid parental leave to 26 weeks, starting with two additional weeks from July 1, 2024.

'This is a welcome announcement and will result in improved financial security for parents and caregivers immediately after the birth of a baby—this is an important time of infant development, family adjustment and child-adult bonding. The additional weeks and flexibility offer more choice and control about balancing care and work. The gains of a universal, affordable early childhood education and care system are visibly amplified when coupled with structures such as paid parental leave that support women's participation in the workforce and ensure economic security.'

'We must also ensure that the extended parental leave does not lead to unequal retirement savings—often referred to as the 'motherhood penalty', as primary caring responsibilities predominantly fall to women. We hope that the government is already considering ways to incorporate the addition of superannuation payments to paid parental leave so that primary carers do not miss out.'

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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.