



**Early Childhood Australia**  
A voice for young children

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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday 19 October 2022

### **ECA WELCOMES SA's ROYAL COMMISSION INTO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE, LED BY HON JULIA GILLARD AC**

Early Childhood Australia (ECA), the nation's peak advocacy organisation for children and early childhood services, welcomes the South Australian government's announcement establishing a Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care, led by Hon Julia Gillard AC, to get a better deal for children and families across services.

Welcoming the announcement, ECA CEO Ms Samantha Page said, 'We are sure this will be a worthwhile process. Many children are starting school developmentally vulnerable, and the numbers double up when we are talking about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. We know about the positive impacts that high-quality, play-based early childhood education and care delivers for children, but it also has important benefits for families, addressing access and affordability barriers.'

'We also believe that with her rich experience as a former prime minister and federal education minister, Hon Julia Gillard AC is the right choice to lead the Royal Commission. Just recently, at the ECA National Conference, where Ms Gillard presented as a keynote speaker, she spoke at length about the importance of investing in early childhood education and care, closing the gap and effective funding models for early education,' added Ms Page.

Ms Susan Jackson Chairperson ECA SA said, 'The SA committee value the invitation from Hon Julia Gillard to provide input into the Royal Commission. ECA members consistently work to build the capacity of our society and the early childhood sector to realise the potential of every child during the critical early years from birth to the age of eight. We are passionate about ensuring that First Nations children get equal opportunities in Australia, thrive, and be recognised and supported within their cultures. Our committee respect Royal Commissioner Julia Gillard's ethical leadership, skill and dedication to children and look forward to contributing to the inquiry into Early Childhood Education and Care in South Australia.'

ECA has been advocating for children to have at least two years of high-quality, play-based early learning prior to starting school to support every child to learn and thrive, and will closely follow the updates and outcomes from the Royal Commission. ECA is keen to work collaboratively with the Commission through any opportunities to provide submissions that may support its inquiry, and will continue to advocate for a strong universal platform of early childhood education and care to support all children now and into the future.

## **ENDS**

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/](http://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.