



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

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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday 17 April 2023

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ROYAL COMMISSION INTO ECEC INTERIM REPORT RELEASED**

Early Childhood Australia (ECA), the nation's peak advocacy body for young children and services, welcome the release of the *Interim Report* from the South Australian Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC).

Today the Hon. Julia Gillard, Commissioner of the South Australian Royal Commission into ECEC, released the Commission's *Interim Report* focusing on three-year-old preschool delivery.

The report sets out the findings from public submissions and the work of the Commission to date. Recommendations include providing a three-year-old entitlement equivalent to four-year-old, broadening the definition of preschool, investing in quality, investing in outreach to promote universal uptake, and delivery with a mix of government and non-government services.

Other recommendations include trialling outreach models, programs delivered by diploma-qualified educators with intensive support, different models of allied health provision in preschools, and alternative models for communities with very low uptake of ECEC. Another focus of the recommendations was to better understand the impact of structures of quality along with workforce consistency on quality.

ECA CEO Samantha Page said, 'ECA welcomes the report as a significant first step, building on existing strengths of the ECEC system, towards a universal platform for access to high-quality ECEC for children. We commend the South Australian Royal Commission for its work. This work sets a firm foundation for building a strong universal system for three-year-old children across South Australia and has implications for the rest of the nation too.'

'Developing a universal system that provides quality preschool for every child in the two years before they start school is one of the best investments we can make in the future. We know that one of the most critical factors supporting high-quality ECEC and outcomes for children is having a stable professional and qualified workforce. We need to ensure that this is at the centre of preschool delivery.'

Susan Jackson, Chair of the ECA South Australian Committee, commented, 'I feel heartened by the way that data and broad consultation have been incorporated into the Royal Commission's *Interim Report* and to hear the Commissioner recognise the value of high-quality, play-based three- and four-year-old preschool. There appears to be strong alignment with many of the recommendations made, and we look forward to our continued involvement in shaping the final report through the consultation process. The outcome of the Royal Commission's work has the potential to make a

positive difference to not only children, families and the early childhood sector in South Australia, but to all South Australians' life trajectories.'

ECA advocate for a strong early childhood education system that places children at its centre and supports them through measures that ensure high-quality, play-based ECEC that is accessible, affordable, inclusive and stable—so that every young child is thriving and learning. Pursuing a universal three-year-old offering is an important priority for the Australian early childhood landscape. This is reinforced by the recent OECD *Education Policy Outlook: Australia*, which noted the solid foundation that ECEC provides for children and their outcomes later in life—particularly for children who have attended two years of ECEC prior to school.

The Royal Commission's Final Report will be released by the end of August 2023.

## **ENDS**

ECA CEO Samantha Page is available for comment. For interviews, contact the ECA Media Officer 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 aged birth to eight years, their families and early childhood professionals.