



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

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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday 28 August 2023

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ROYAL COMMISSION CHARTS A NEW COURSE FOR UNIVERSAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

The SA Royal Commission's recommendations from its final report set out an ambitious vision for a universal early childhood education and care system in South Australia that prioritises equity, access, quality, and a clear commitment to children.

Highlights include:

- A commitment to 15 hours of universal preschool for three and four-year-olds (and up to 30 hours for some cohorts),
- Leveraging all available settings to make services accessible for all families, while maintaining high standards of quality,
- Recognising the pivotal role of teachers, their qualifications, and investing in the workforce to ensure high-quality early childhood environments,
- Broadening the concept of preschool to reflect and further incorporate broader social supports, and
- Ensuring children are given optimal chances to thrive by integrating developmental assessments for all children.

Sam Page, ECA CEO said, "The recommendations present South Australia with the opportunity to make significant progress in transforming early childhood education and care provision while embedding high standards for quality and equity that prioritise the wellbeing and development of young children and support for families."

"The measures proposed to support developmental assessments and extend supports in preschool settings, while integral, should enhance rather than supplant quality early childhood teaching practice delivered by professionally qualified teachers. It is pivotal that early childhood teachers and experts in early years pedagogy play an active role in shaping child assessment approaches and curriculum resources" Ms Page continued.

The recommendations take a long-term and ambitious view for South Australian children and families - ECA and its South Australian committee look forward to working closely with the SA government in implementing these significant reforms.

## **Recommendations at a Glance:**

### **A vision for South Australia's children in their first 1000 days of life**

- Leadership of the early child development system
- Regulating early childhood education and care
- The first 1000 days - connected services
- The first 1000 days - accessibility, choice and quality of early childhood education and care
- The first 1000 days - progressive universalism in the early child development system
- The first 1000 days for Aboriginal children

### **Universal quality preschool programs for three and four-year old children**

- Universal preschool at three and four years old
- Ensuring a high-quality, sustainable early childhood workforce
- Early childhood teacher qualifications
- Additional hours for those who need it
- Quality in preschool
- Aboriginal three-year-old preschool

### **Out of School Hours Care**

- Access to out of school hours care in primary school
- The regulatory approach to out of school hours care
- Governance of OSHC in government schools
- Disability inclusion in out of school hours care
- Preschool out of hours care

## **ENDS**

ECA CEO Sam Page is available for comment. For interviews, contact ECA Media team 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.