



Early Childhood Australia

Western Australia

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

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 19 March 2025

**Congratulations to the Hon Sabine Winton MLA announced as WA Minister for Education;
Early Childhood**

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) welcomes the announcement of the Hon Sabine Winton as Minister for Education; Early Childhood in the new WA Labor Government Cabinet as announced by Premier Roger Cook yesterday. Minister Winton has built a good relationship with the early childhood sector in WA and has been a champion for early years pedagogy and the importance of play.

ECA WA Committee Chair, Tanya Steers said, *'ECA WA has a strong track record of working with the WA Government to represent the interests of children, families and early childhood professionals. We are heartened by the interest and commitment of the Cook Government for children in early childhood and look forward to supporting engagement with the sector to amplify voices of children, families and early childhood professionals over the next term of government.'*

ECA welcomes Labor's election commitments to expand preschool (\$33.8M) and outside school hours care (\$15M) as well as to establish an Office for Early Childhood Education. We understand the challenges and the perspectives of different stakeholder groups; our reach and relationships can assist the government to navigate complexities and centre children in their reform agenda.

We also believe that Minister Winton is well-placed to contribute to national dialogues on building a universal, but not uniform, high-quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) system. She brings experience to the challenge of delivering early childhood programs for children and families across a large state with so many dispersed rural and remote communities that have unique strengths and resources.

ECA's CEO, Samantha Page said, *'We look forward to engaging with the WA Government on the national reform agenda towards a universal, but not uniform, high-quality early childhood education and care system. ECA places value on potential opportunities to help shape policy and its practical application, and is prepared, ready and able to back our WA ECA Committee to advise, assist and co-lead any local engagement to better inform government and sector investment.'*

ECA will continue to advocate for greater and enduring investment in ECEC towards a high-quality universal ECEC system for WA's children, families and communities, and in support of the professional, dedicated ECEC workforce.

Early Childhood Australia Chief Executive Officer, Samantha Page is available for comment on 0448 883 687 or Tanya Steers, WA ECA Chair via wa.chair@earlychildhood.org.au