

# Recommendations

## **Recommendation 1**

It is recommended that:

- 1.1 a national plan for preschool education be developed between the Commonwealth and states and territories to ensure equity and access to high quality preschool;
- 1.2 a national framework and vision for preschool education is coordinated through MCEETYA and DEST.

## **Recommendation 2**

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 the provision of high quality and accessible preschool education in the year before commencing school is free for all children across Australia and is acknowledged at a federal level as a universal right;
- 2.2 the Commonwealth reintroduce dedicated funding for preschool education and that Commonwealth and state and territory governments jointly provide the full costs of preschool education.

## **Recommendation 3**

It is recommended that:

- 3.1 the Commonwealth and state and territory governments give priority to ensuring access to high quality preschool education for Indigenous children across the country;
- 3.2 access to two years of preschool education be provided for all Indigenous children;
- 3.3 Commonwealth and state and territory governments provide additional funds dedicated to improving access for Indigenous children to preschool education;
- 3.4 current initiatives that link health, education and community programs be increased and expanded. Higher levels of coordination between services should be established between government and non-government organisations in direct consultation with Indigenous communities;
- 3.5 priority be given to increased employment of Indigenous teachers and other staff, particularly in Indigenous communities, and initiatives are introduced urgently to increase study opportunities for Indigenous staff in early childhood.

## **Recommendation 4**

It is recommended that:

- 4.1 the term “preschool” be used across Australia to describe the year before school;
- 4.2 a common term for the first year of school be used across Australia.

## **Recommendation 5**

It is recommended that preschool education programs be staffed by at least one qualified staff

member with an early childhood teacher degree.

In addition there be at least one teacher assistant for the duration of time children attend the program.

## **Recommendation 6**

It is recommended that:

- 6.1 the Commonwealth and state and territory governments provide a significant and immediate increase in funding to provide adequate supports and resources for children with special needs;
- 6.2 group size and teacher/child ratios be reduced for each child who meet the criteria for special needs assistance.

## **Recommendation 7**

It is recommended that:

- 7.1 the maximum size of preschool classes be limited to 20 children per group. For each group there be at least two staff, including one with an early childhood teaching degree;
- 7.2 in remote and rural areas of Australia, provision of preschool not require a minimum of 12 children. A group size of five and above is recommended.

## **Recommendation 8**

It is recommended that preschools and childcare centres across Australia come under the jurisdiction of the departments of education in each state and territory and provide continuity for children and families between childcare, preschool and the first year of school.

## **Recommendation 9**

It is recommended that funding for preschool programs be based upon enrolment rather than attendance.

## **Recommendation 10**

It is recommended that the Commonwealth and state and territory governments jointly fund increased provision of transport for children to access preschool. This provision needs to be targeted at children with special needs, Indigenous children, CALD children and families in low socioeconomic group

## **Recommendation 11**

It is recommended that:

- 11.1 culturally appropriate curriculum be provided in all preschools, with content that reflects cultural diversity for all children;
- 11.2 curriculum reflects and respects the specific groups within each program, particularly providing appropriate supports and content for children and families of CALD backgrounds, Indigenous children and children with special needs.