



# PRESCHOOL FUNDING

**A LIFETIME OF VALUE**



## **Quality early childhood education is an investment in our children's future**

Quality early childhood education has shown to improve school readiness by providing the knowledge and skills that enable children to succeed at school.

It's about developing the whole child – their social and emotional skills, their ability to communicate, get along with others and manage their behaviour and emotions.

These critical physical, emotional and cognitive skills enable children to thrive and become lifelong learners. Preschool is an opportunity to build strong foundations for optimal early development and school readiness.

Permanent pre-school funding is the most transformational policy intervention the federal government can make to raise education levels in Australia.

## **Every child in Australia is entitled to 15 hours of quality early learning per week in the year before school.**

Children in their year before school currently access 15 hours of preschool each week delivered by a degree-qualified early childhood teacher and education support staff, through a National Partnership Agreement for Universal Access to Early Childhood Education between the Commonwealth and states/territories.

## **This Commonwealth funding runs out at the end of 2020.**

## **Early childhood education sets children up for life.**

Experts agree that the first 1000 days of a child's life are the most important time for brain development and critical for building good social and emotional skills, which will enhance a child's transition into school.

Children who attend preschool can expect to achieve greater academic success, have better career prospects, better health outcomes and stronger family and personal relationships.

In fact, a recent report from the Mitchell Institute estimates that every dollar spent on early childhood education returns an economic benefit to Australian society between 2 and 4 dollars.

Yet despite these benefits, funding for pre-school under the Morrison Government is set to run out in 2020, creating uncertainty for parents and educators.

 @AEUfederal

 /PreschoolFundingNow

Authorised by Susan Hoggood, Federal Secretary, Australian Education Union,  
120 Clarendon Street, Southbank, 3006.

**PRESCHOOL  
FUNDING  
NOW!**

## COST VS BENEFIT

**FOR EVERY ONE DOLLAR INVESTED AN ESTIMATED \$2-4 IS RETURNED TO BENEFIT BOTH THE CHILD AND COMMUNITY.**

**\$427  
MILLION**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ✓ Improved employment and earning potential             | ✓ Reduced rate of incarceration          |
| ✓ Increased high school graduation                      | ✓ Improved school readiness              |
| ✓ Reduced reliance on welfare                           | ✓ Reduced special education use          |
| ✓ Improved commitment to schooling and reduced absences | ✓ Increase tertiary education attainment |

### Australia lagging behind the rest of the world

Most countries provide two years of preschool in line with the international standard. Australia is one of 11 countries which only provide one year along with Algeria, Angola, Bermuda, Gibraltar, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa and Sri Lanka.

Australia should be expanding early childhood education, yet the Morrison government consistently refuses to commit to funding preschool for four year old children permanently and continues to ignore the importance of preschool for three year old children.

**The Federal Government needs to step up and support young children and their families, as well as teachers and educators working in the sector by permanently funding early childhood education.**

Since 2013, the sector has suffered a succession of short term funding arrangements. Current funding from the Federal Government is only provided to December 2020.

This short term thinking creates ongoing uncertainty for parents and the early childhood education sector including teachers, educators, centre managers and staff.

It is difficult to budget, address staffing issues and plan for the delivery of preschool education when funding is not guaranteed.

**Australia needs a high quality, permanently funded preschool sector now.**

### Support the campaign

*The Preschool Funding Now! campaign is calling on the Government to commit to a high quality, permanently funded preschool sector.*

*Join us and help ensure every child in Australia gets the best start in life.*

We want to send a strong message to the Morrison Government that preschool funding is important to Australians. Go to our website <http://www.aeufederal.org.au/Preschool-Funding-Now> and social media pages and find out how you can get involved.

 @AEUfederal

 /PreschoolFundingNow

Authorised by Susan Hoggood, Federal Secretary, Australian Education Union,  
120 Clarendon Street, Southbank, 3006.

**PRESCHOOL  
FUNDING  
NOW!**