



media release 28 May 2019

Andrews Government leading the country in early childhood – peak body commends additional \$140+ in 19/20 budget for our children’s future

Community Child Care Association (CCC) Executive Director Julie Price welcomes the funding secured for much needed education and care reforms in Labor’s 2019/20 budget. Victoria’s early childhood reform agenda is the largest investment in early education and care we have seen in the country.

“As the peak body for Victorian community/not-for-profit education and care, we celebrate Labor’s ongoing commitment to the Early Childhood Reform Plan and the great outcomes for children and families that will be achieved.”

As the federal election demonstrated, poor wages and conditions are a key concern for early childhood educators. CCC is happy to see the 19/20 Victorian budget includes some workforce initiatives including scholarships for aspiring teachers, free TAFE for two education and care qualifications, and a top-up of funds to support the new and existing teachers.

However, “CCC believes that the education and care sector needs a comprehensive workforce strategy”, as highlighted in the *Lifting our Game* Report** and implores the Andrews Government to prioritise this important piece of work.

The additional \$35.5 million and \$54.5 million in 2019/20 to begin the rollout of three-year-old kinder and building supporting infrastructure is also very welcome. Again the *Lifting our Game* Report** calls on governments across Australia to progressively implement universal access to quality early childhood programs for all three-year-olds.

CCC admires the role the Victorian Government has played in taking the lead on initiatives that will make a real difference for children and families.

1 in 3 women report that caring for children stops them from starting a job or working more hours***. Therefore, CCC is continuing to advocate for every new school built to include an out of school hours program and an integrated long day care centre embedding the kinders already promised.



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“CCC is pleased to be supplying sector knowledge and providing advice to the Andrews Government in supporting the rollout of these crucial promises for Victorian children and educators into the future,” says Ms Price.

For further comment please contact:

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*Irvine, S., Thorpe, K., McDonald, P., Lunn, J., & Sumsion, J., (2016, May). Money, Love and Identity: Initial findings from the National ECEC Workforce Study. Summary report from the national ECEC Workforce Development Policy Workshop, Brisbane, Queensland: QUT
https://eprints.qut.edu.au/101622/1/Brief_report_ECEC_Workforce_Development_Policy_Workshop_final.pdf

** Pascoe, S., & Brennan, D. (2017) Lifting our Game: Report of the Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools through Early Childhood Interventions. Victorian Government
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/LiftingOurGame.PDF>

***The Australian Government’s Strategy to Boost Women’s Workforce Participation (2017) Commonwealth of Australia.
<http://womensworkforceparticipation.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/towards-2025-strategy.pdf>



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