

Building a future our children deserve – Victorian Budget 2020

“The 2020/21 Victorian Budget is a clear winner for children and families. This landmark investment in early childhood education will carve a learning path for the fast-growing minds of our youngest Victorians.”

Community Child Care Association (CCC) Executive Director Julie Price has warmly welcomed the monumental budget. “This Budget puts children and families front and centre as we recover from the impacts of COVID-19.”

The Victorian Government’s record investment in early childhood education over the next four years includes:

- \$170 million for free kindergarten programs in 2021 to support families with the costs of early childhood education
- \$258 million to continue the progressive roll-out of universal three-year-old kindergarten, ensuring that children can access the benefits of two years of play-based learning before starting school
- \$82 million to start new outside school hours care programs at up to 400 government schools
- \$2.5 million to support three-year-old refugee and asylum seeker children to access 15 hours of free or low-cost kindergarten in all parts of Victoria from 2021

“The Victorian Government is leading the country in providing funding for free kindergarten and new outside school hours care services next year,” says Ms Price. “This ongoing commitment to early childhood education will help reduce the financial pressure that many Victorian families are feeling this year.”

Accessible, quality kindergarten for all will set our youngest learners up for success later down the track. “Research shows that quality early childhood education makes a significant contribution to achieving educational excellence in schools,”¹ notes Ms Price.

CCC commends the Victorian Government for seeking to build a Victoria that is fairer and more equitable. “Our state’s most vulnerable children will be the greatest benefactors of this forward-looking investment in early childhood education.”

For more information or to arrange an interview with CCC’s Executive Director, Julie Price, contact Daniela Kavoukas on 0488 300 911

¹ [Lifting Our Game: Report of the Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools through Early Childhood Interventions](#)