



Four-year commitment to pre-school funding welcomed but more is needed

Community Child Care Association (CCC) welcomes the federal government's budget announcement of \$2 billion funding over four years towards early childhood education, allowing service providers to plan with confidence for the first time.

This ongoing funding commitment will support access for all children to at least 15 hours a week of quality learning in the year before school, beyond the previous year-on-year arrangement.

"This longer-term funding agreement and reform provides early education and care services with the ability to budget appropriately, recruit and plan ahead – a luxury they have not been afforded recently. However, while the investment is very welcome, we believe that more must be done to support and secure the workforce at the heart of the sector," says Community Child Care Association Executive Director Julie Price.

"We also need to support those families that rely on outside of school hours care, which is just as vital for parents' workforce participation, as well as being a significant opportunity for children's play, socialisation and learning."

CCC works to ensure that children and families have access to quality education and care services that meet their individual needs. Its 600+ members are community owned and managed education and care providers across Victoria.

"The federal government agrees with us that all children, regardless of their economic circumstances, should have access to high quality early childhood education. The budget commitment gives the sector real confidence to support access and equity through much-needed stability for the early education and care sector," adds Ms Price.

CCC supports a National Workforce Strategy to tackle some of the big challenges that the government has not addressed in this budget, such as raising the wages and working conditions for educators.

CCC is continuing to work with its members, state and federal governments to ensure its goals of enabling access, supporting workforce, ensuring quality and sustainability are achieved across the early childhood education and care sectors.

For more information or to arrange an interview with CCC Executive Director, Julie Price, please contact Caitlyn Robertson on 0455 021 197.

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