



Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Early Childhood Educators' Day marks the start of a new era in Early Childhood Education

Australia's early learning sector will celebrate a growing workforce dedicated to quality education and care on **Early Childhood Educators' Day** this **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**.

This year, the sector welcomed more pledges of support from Governments than ever before, with significant investments committed from the Federal Government and most State Governments.

*Early Childhood Educators' Day* recognises and celebrates the work of Australia's educators in early learning services (including long day care, family day care, in-home care and occasional care), for their contribution to the well-being and healthy development of the young children in their care.

In July, the Federal Government introduced a \$4.6 billion increase to the Childcare Subsidy and committed \$72 million to support professional development in the sector.

Most State Governments across Australia have also pledged support for the sector through making preschool or kindergarten free, or through plans to increase hours of free kinder over the coming years.

Individually, states and territories have pledged:

- In **Victoria**: free kinder is now available for 3- and 4-year-old children, with 4-year-old kindergarten expanding to 30 hours a week over the next decade and 3-year-old kinder to be free for all children across the state by 2029.
- In **NSW**: funding is committed to provide affordable access to preschool and a high-quality universal pre-kindergarten year for all children in the year before school by 2030.
- In **Queensland**: Children will be eligible for 15 hours a week or 600 hours of free kindy from 2024.
- In **South Australia**, a final report from a Royal Commission into expanding 3-year-old preschool has been handed down.
- In **Tasmania**, universal early learning for 3-year-olds is in development.
- In the **ACT**: 3-year-olds are eligible for one free day of preschool a week.
- In the **NT**, a review into preschool is underway.
- In **WA**, a grant fund for local governments to employ ECEC workers, and investment in free and low-fee training in early childhood education and care.

The Australian Childcare Alliance is contributing to the ACCC's work on the sector, and the Productivity Commission's review for the Federal Government.

**Paul Mondo, President of the Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA)**, said the sector was aligned in its goals for better pay for early childhood education and care workers and accessible, high quality early childhood education for all.

“Our early learning service providers rely on their dedicated educators to provide the best start in life for children. Providers and families at each service are encouraged to say thank you to early childhood educators on or during the week of *Early Childhood Educators’ Day*, whether through a formal celebration or simple gestures like a card or small hand-made gift,” he said.

There are more than 3200 early learning services signed up to celebrate their educators today, which equates to around a third of early childhood education and care services across the country.

“We love seeing early learning services celebrating a national community event that shows their appreciation for their workforce,” Mr Mondo said.

“The aim of the day is to offer the simple gesture of saying thank you to early childhood educators and acknowledging our appreciation for their commitment and enthusiasm.”

Messages of support for Early Childhood Educators’ Day can be accessed [here](#).

## **ENDS**

### **ACA National**

ACA President - Paul Mondo 0411 587 170

ACA Vice President - Nesha Hutchinson 0412 085 068

### **Live media on Wednesday 6 September**

If you would like to visit a centre or organise an interview on **Early Childhood Educators’ Day**, please contact Celia Falkland, ACA National,

[celia.falkland@childcarealliance.org.au](mailto:celia.falkland@childcarealliance.org.au), T - 0432 430 295

For more information:

- Visit the website – [www.EarlyChildhoodEducatorsDay.org.au](http://www.EarlyChildhoodEducatorsDay.org.au)
- Follow us on Facebook [@EarlyChildhoodEducatorsDay](https://www.facebook.com/EarlyChildhoodEducatorsDay)
- Follow us on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/earlychildhoodeducatorsday/>