

## Early Childhood Member Stories

The AEU is seeking your assistance to develop a 'member voice' as an important tool for the Preschool Funding campaign. We want to put a human face to the campaign and to share the experiences of AEU members working in the early childhood sector with the broader AEU membership and with the broader community. These stories will help to highlight the importance of the campaign to secure ongoing funding for preschools.

They are intended to be used on AEU-branded social media accounts, at campaign events and quotes for articles in the Educator and other publications.

We would like early childhood members to contribute to the campaign, and have two simple asks:

- answers to the questions listed below; and
- a good quality picture of yourself to publish alongside your answers (if you don't have a recent picture, ask a colleague to take one with your mobile phone).

### The AEU is campaigning for:

1. **Guaranteed permanent funding** for Universal Access to preschool for all children the year before full-time schooling by a four year university degree qualified teacher for 15 hours per week. Current funding of Universal Access expires in 2021 leaving the future early education prospects of young children and those working within the early childhood education sector in a state of uncertainty. The benefits of Universal Access are clear and need to be secured with adequate permanent funding.
2. **Universal Access for all three year old children.** Extending Universal Access to preschool to include the two years prior to full-time schooling provides further social and cognitive educational outcomes and increased benefits both to the child and to society in general. The benefits of two years of preschool are even greater for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
3. **Implementation of a strong and effective workforce strategy for the sector.** A qualified and skilled workforce is key to delivering quality preschool programs. A strong workforce strategy which includes elements such as staff qualification, educator-to-child ratios, preschool resourcing, group size and educational curriculum are important considerations along with workforce recruitment and retention to provide a sustainable profession for early childhood educators.

The voices of our early childhood members are critical to the next phases of our campaign and we look forward to hearing from you.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **BRANCH:** \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTION- What do you enjoy most about working in early childhood?

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QUESTION- What's the one thing you wish the Federal Government knew about the benefits of preschool for young children?

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QUESTION- What difference does universal access to preschool make to a child's development?

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QUESTION- What are the benefits of 15 hours a week of guaranteed preschool?

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QUESTION- How has funding uncertainty affected you as a teacher or educator and what is the impact of this on children and parents?

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QUESTION- What does guaranteed permanent funding of preschool mean for you as an educator and how does this relate to children and their families?

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I consent, and understand that my answers may be published and used in the AEU Preschool campaign. SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return for to the AEU Federal Office via email to [ncalnan@aeufederal.org.au](mailto:ncalnan@aeufederal.org.au)