



## AEU Early Childhood Education Politician Meetings Information Sheet

Delegation Leader	Introduce everyone - explain who you are/where you are from	
Teacher	Share the story of your own local preschool/kindergarten and how Universal Access funding impacts the community: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. within the preschool,</li> <li>2. on the children,</li> <li>3. prospectively for the future <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. workforce planning</li> <li>b. lifelong learning impact on children</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<b>ASK: Will you visit our preschool/kindergarten?</b>
Delegation Leader	Outline the 2 AEU asks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Universal Access for all three year old children.</li> </ul>	<b>ASK: Do you support our policy asks and will you write to your Early Childhood Education Spokesperson asking them to support our four policy asks (and CC us into the letter)?</b>
Teacher/Parent	Take a photo- ask them to share it on their social media. Send copies of any photos to the AEU for our use	<b>ASK: Will you take a photo with us and share it on your Facebook and Twitter?</b>

### Key message:

Public education is the key to a more equitable, more democratic society. Investment in quality public education during early childhood reaps significant long term benefits for children, their families and the community. All children in Australia have the right to be given the very best start in life. It is essential that the Commonwealth continues to share responsibility with the states and territories for ensuring the delivery of a high quality, free, public early childhood education to all children in Australia on a permanent basis that provides stability to the preschool sector.

### Key policy asks:

- 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 at the end of 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.*