

Early childhood education funding

Campaign guide



PRESCHOOL FUNDING NOW!

Key actions

- Contact your local federal Labor MP or candidate via email or phone and thank them for their commitment to the ongoing funding of two years of preschool.
- Contact your local federal Liberal MP or candidate via a letter, email or phone and invite them into your service to experience your preschool program in action and to spend some time with the children and staff to see what a difference early education makes for our children.
 - You can refer to the spreadsheet to find out who your local MP or candidate is.
 - You can use the letter template provided and add your own personal details and stories to send to your MP/candidate.
 - You may need to make contact a few times before you have any success speaking to or hearing from your MP/candidate. Keep persisting.
 - If your local MP/candidate won't visit your preschool, organise a group of colleagues and families to join you and visit them at their office.
 - Invite your local MP/candidate to attend your local network/regional meetings. Collectively you are more powerful, and you can share the responsibility of your advocacy and activism work.
- Use your speaker notes and your own personal stories when you are speaking to your MP/candidate via the phone or when they come to visit. This will help if you are feeling nervous to discuss your key messages and to outline the issues.
- Support families to engage in issues through their own personal stories and the impact that funding cuts would have on them and their children.
- Encourage families and colleagues to engage on social media by asking them to 'like' and share the contents of the **Preschool Funding Now** Facebook Page.
- You don't need to be campaigning alone. Organise and plan with your colleagues, families and networks to make contact and to invite your MP/candidate into your services and engage in conversations. Collectively you are more powerful.
- We want to share your activism with the wider community so please take photos and notes of your visits. You can email them to melbourne@aeuvic.asn.au (Attention: Cara Nightingale in the subject line) for your visit be shared on the **Preschool Funding Now** Facebook Page.
- Please also share your activism on the **Early Childhood Teachers Victoria** Facebook Page.





**PRESCHOOL
FUNDING
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Key messages

- We need your support to secure permanent funding for 15 hours of 3 and 4 year-old preschool education for all children.
- Children in their year before school currently access 15 hours of preschool each week delivered by a degree-qualified early childhood teacher and a co-educator, through a National Partnership Agreement between the Commonwealth and states/territories. This Commonwealth funding runs out at the end of 2019.
- To maintain 15 hours of preschool, parent fees would increase significantly. Many families will not be able to afford an extra \$1,200 per year in fees.
- Without this commitment, preschool funding could be cut by a third and children will return to 10 hours of education per week. This will have a detrimental impact on children, families and the workforce.
- We know that high quality preschool education sets children up for life. They deserve nothing less. Parents deserve certainty and staff deserve job security.

Lifting Our Game

The *Lifting our Game* report was an independent review of early childhood education and services in Australia, commissioned by all state and territory governments. The report made 16 recommendations, including:

1. Australian governments agree to permanent, adequate funding for Universal Access in the year before school and the National Quality Framework.
2. Australian governments progressively implement universal access to 600 hours per year of a quality early childhood education program, inclusive of all three-year olds, with access prioritised for disadvantaged children, families and communities during roll out.
3. Australian governments promote and support full participation by three- and four-year olds in quality early childhood education programs, in particular to maximise participation by vulnerable or disadvantaged children.
4. Australian governments agree to a new national early childhood education and care workforce strategy to support the recruitment, retention, sustainability and enhanced professionalisation of the workforce, thereby improving service quality and children's outcomes.