

## MEDIA RELEASE

16 October 2018

### **At last a guarantee of two years of early childhood education for Australia's children**

Australian Community Children's Services (ACCS) congratulates the ALP on its announcement of guaranteed access to 15 hours per week of subsidised early childhood education for all 3 and 4 year olds.

Australia lags behind the OECD average participation rate for three year olds. This initiative will address the problem of 1 in 5 Australian children starting school behind their peers in the developmental domains of physical health and well-being; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills; and communication skills and general knowledge.

National Convenor of ACCS, Prue Warrilow congratulated the ALP on this initiative which will work towards improving educational and life course outcomes for Australian children.

"ACCS calls for assurances that the funding will support early childhood education delivered by degree qualified early childhood teachers in all settings including long day care, family day care and preschool/kindergarten. It is deeply unfair that preschool aged children in some states such as WA miss out on subsidised early childhood education just because they attend the 'wrong' kind of service. Government funding should flow to any service type where a qualified degree early childhood teacher is delivering the educational program"

ACCS calls on all major parties contesting the next federal election to match today's announcement by the ALP.

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