



**MEDIA STATEMENT
5 June 2016**

LABOR CHILDCARE POLICY IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD

Australian mums and dads are today applauding Labor's plan to make childcare more affordable from next year.

The Parenthood, Australia's leading parent advocacy organisation, has congratulated Bill Shorten and Labor on their childcare policy announcement today, which recognises that parents can't wait any longer for action on childcare costs.

Jo Briskey, Executive Director of The Parenthood, said today's commitment was the first major promise on childcare affordability that would make a huge difference to so many Aussie mums and dads because it would start from next year.

"Increasing the Child Care Rebate cap from \$7,500 to \$10,000 will make a huge difference for family budgets," Ms Briskey said.

"At this time of year, many families are hitting the rebate cap, meaning they are forced to pay full fees.

"An increase in the cap will mean lots of parents, particularly mums, will be able to work more days a week, which is not only great for families, but great for our economy too.

Ms Briskey said a 15 per cent increase in the Child Care Benefit will also ease the budget pressures for many low to middle income working families.

"Most importantly, we congratulate Bill Shorten and Labor on offering genuine cost relief for families from January 2017," Ms Briskey said.

"In comparison, Mr Turnbull and the Liberals are making families wait until 2018 for relief - and that's simply not good enough.

"Whilst the Coalition's plan would give a higher subsidy rate for some working families than under Labor's plan, the reality is families can't wait any longer for cost relief.

"Parents hope today's announcement from Labor is a wake up call for the Coalition and that Mr Turnbull will re-consider delaying his plans to help mums and dads with their cost of childcare

"Parents are looking at each of the parties' policies to see who is most in touch with their families' needs.

"This election, mums and dads will be supporting politicians who support their families."

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