



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**Parents throw their support behind early years educators**

Some childcare centres in Sydney and Melbourne are set to close early this Thursday as early childhood educators go on strike to fight for professional wages.

Jo Briskey, Executive Director of The Parenthood, said parents value the work of early educators and support their fight for professional rates of pay.

“Centres closing early will be an inconvenience, but most parents understand how important the work of early educators is and support their push for a professional wage,” Ms Briskey said.

“The disruption caused by this action highlights just how vital early educators are.

“These professionals do some of the most important and valuable work in our communities, giving our kids the best chance to learn and grow.”

Childcare educators with a certificate III qualification earn \$20.13 an hour (\$39,776 a year) and educators with a diploma are paid a maximum of \$23.20 an hour (\$46,000 a year).

Ms Briskey said the action highlighted the need for the Turnbull Government to act to reform the childcare sector.

“Parents and educators have been pushing for years for policies that make early learning more affordable and accessible while also paying educators properly,” Ms Briskey.

“The Coalition has delayed action on childcare reform for over three years now and this is the result.

“The government needs to work with parents, educators and centre operators to ensure our kids are getting the best start to life.”

Parents should contact their centre to determine if the industrial action will affect them.

**END**

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