



MEDIA STATEMENT

**Parents look to Pauline Hanson to save access to early learning for our kids
23 March 2017**

The following statement can be attributed to Jo Briskey, Executive Director, The Parenthood:

"Parents have been left devastated at reports Xenophon Team and Senator Hinch will vote in favour of one of the major flaws of the Turnbull Government's childcare reform package - slashing children's access to early learning in half from two days to just one.

Parents are now turning to Pauline Hanson and her One Nation team to negotiate a minimum of 15 hours of guaranteed access to subsidised early learning and care as part of passing the childcare package.

Today was meant to be a great day for Aussie families who have been waiting years to see more affordable childcare pass the Parliament, but key crossbench Senators Xenophon and team as well as Senator Hinch have destroyed that joy, failing to negotiate out the cut in subsidised hours that will leave thousands of kids without access to the early learning they need and deserve.

All kids currently have access to two days of subsidised childcare - the minimum amount needed to get the best out of early learning. The Turnbull Government's new legislation slashes that time in half leaving kids with only one day of subsidised childcare.

A compromise of a minimum of 15 hours had been on the table for months and it had been expected that key crossbench Senators would help secure this amendment when voting on the overall package.

The 15 hours compromise would help protect children's access to early learning as well as giving thousands of parents the confidence they could count on at least two days of subsidise care to help plan around casual work or when out looking for work.

Now Xenophon and Team have let struggling Aussie families down - not only have they enabled the Turnbull Government to take money off some of our most vulnerable families in freezing the Family Tax Benefit payments they've now taken early learning off some of our most vulnerable kids.

Mums and dads now pin their hopes on Pauline Hanson, hoping she'll stand up for Aussie kids and families and help protect access to quality early learning. Parents are now making calls to Ms Hanson's office in a last ditch attempt to save the future of early learning and care in Australia."

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Media contact: Jo Briskey, Executive Director, The Parenthood 0423 262 449.