

## **AUSSIE CHILDCARE MOST EXPENSIVE IN THE WORLD**

Reports out today serve to highlight what parents have been saying for years – Australian childcare is the most expensive in the world.

“We’ve been saying this for so long – parents are really struggling with the cost of their children’s early education and care,” said The Parenthood’s Principal Campaign Manager Nicole Lessio.

According to the Herald Sun, families in Berlin are paying only \$7.85 per week for five days of early education and care, compared with Australian families who can pay more than \$500 out of pocket per week.

“We know how vital early education is to a child’s success, yet the cost prohibits children accessing the early learning they need to thrive,” Ms Lessio said. “However, when you see what German families are paying for a full week of early education and care, it’s clear that something isn’t quite right with how we’re funding the sector,” said Ms Lessio.

While the Turnbull Government’s childcare reform bill has passed, it doesn’t take effect until July 2018 – and that means another whole year of pain for parents.

“Parents are waiting for the government’s childcare reforms to take effect in July 2018, but these will not reduce costs for families to anything near German levels, not to mention that this delay means families will hit the childcare rebate cap again in the new year,” Ms Lessio said.

Hundreds of Parenthood members have written to their MPs to ask for relief.

“Parents are asking the government for help. They want the rebate raised now because they just can’t wait,” said Ms Lessio.

“As a stop-gap, we call on the Turnbull Government to raise the childcare rebate cap from 1 January not 1 July and save families from another year of pain,” said Ms Lessio. “But what is really needed is a wholesale revision of how we fund the early education sector. It’s time for real reform.”

**END.**

Contact: Nicole Lessio, Principal Campaign Manager, The Parenthood 0416 263 239.