



MEDIA STATEMENT

3 February 2018

RELIEF AS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES ONE MORE YEAR OF KINDY FUNDING

Parents are today expressing a sigh of relief as reports confirm the Turnbull Government will provide \$440 million to extend Universal Access to Kindy and Preschool until the end of 2019.

But, in a blow to parents, this announcement gives no certainty beyond that date.

Universal Access funding guarantees every child access to 600 hours of early learning in the year before they start school, without continued federal funding it would have cost parents \$1,200 more to send their child to Kindy or Preschool.

The Parenthood, Australia's leading campaigning and advocacy organisation for parents welcomes today's news from the Federal Education Minister but is asking why Australian Governments are taking so long to secure a long-term funding solution for early learning.

"Parents welcome the Turnbull Government's additional funds, but are starting to feel a little frustrated that a longer-term funding solution hasn't been reached yet." Parenthood Executive Director Jo Briskey said.

"Parents feel like almost year on year they find themselves asking the Turnbull Government– 'will you, won't you fund kindy and preschool next year?'.

"Experts continually tell us and the government that quality early learning can help set our kids up for life, giving them the best start and helping to ensure they succeed when they reach school

"Yet the government seems to be dragging its heels on actually delivering the solutions parents need to ensure they can access affordable quality early learning and care

"Parents are urging Turnbull to get on with the job and make early learning a priority in 2018.

The Parenthood is also seeking national consistency when it comes to the funding and delivery of kindy and preschool programs.

"Parents want to be able to balance work and their children's early education so Universal Access funding should be distributed to long-day services throughout the country, not just in a select number of States." Ms Briskey said.

"Parents are also urging the Turnbull Government to seriously pursue the move to extending Universal Access to Kindy and Preschool to two years before school to help ensure every Australian child gets the early learning they need to truly succeed.

END

Contact: Jo Briskey, Executive Director, 0423 262 449.