



MEDIA STATEMENT

19 June 2018

NSW takes a step in the right direction on preschool funding

The Parenthood welcomes funding for three-year-olds to attend community preschool in NSW, announced today by the Berejiklian Government.

“All the available evidence shows that two years of preschool has significant benefits for children, setting a strong foundation for their future learning at school and beyond. It is regarded by experts as ‘the single most impactful reform’ governments can take in education,” Executive Director Alys Gagnon said.

“However, The Parenthood hopes to see this funding extend to children who attend preschool programs in the context of long day care.”

Currently, one in six children in NSW attend a community preschool. But, 83% of three-year-olds and 65% of 4-year-olds enrolled in preschool programs in NSW attend programs in long day care centres.

“It’s unfortunate that they miss out on today’s announcement,” Ms Gagnon said.

The Parenthood believes funding for preschool should be available for all NSW children, as it is in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia.

“Community preschools offer a wonderful education to children. However, their hours can make it difficult for working parents to consider that setting a viable choice,” Ms Gagnon said.

“It’s great to see the NSW Premier and Early Education Minister Sarah Mitchell recognise the value of two years in preschool. We hope that this funding announcement today is just the first step towards early learning funding for all kids, no matter where they attend preschool.”

There are 2400 long day care centres and just 800 preschools in NSW, according to the Productivity Review of Govt Services Report 2017

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This statement quotes Prof Deborah Brennan and Susan Pascoe, authors of the ‘Lifting our game’ report. Available [here](#).

AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT Alys Gagnon, Executive Director. 0438379977

The Parenthood is Australia's largest not-for-profit parent advocacy group, with reach of over 63,000 mums and dads nationwide.