



Labor’s promise to fund two years of preschool for all children provides the stability parents are looking for

Australia’s largest voice for parents, The Parenthood, welcomes Bill Shorten’s commitment that if elected, Labor will fund two years of preschool education for all Australian children.

This commitment offers parents the stability for preschool funding they have been asking for again and again. Executive Director, Alys Gagnon said, “Parents want a quality preschool experience for their children but they also want to know that they can afford it.

“The rolling 12-month funding deals we’ve seen for the past few years have left parents feeling a lack of certainty and stability about their finances.

“Parents will welcome this announcement from Labor today and The Parenthood calls on the Coalition to match it.”

Ms Gagnon described the policy proposal as being of primary benefit for three and four-year-old children.

“The research and evidence is clear. Two years of preschool gives kids a big boost. They perform better at school, more likely to go on to higher education, more likely to be employed and less likely to go to gaol.”

Australian experts, Professor Deborah Brennan and Susan Pascoe described investment in two years of preschool as ‘the single most impactful reform’ governments can make in early childhood in their 2017 *Lifting Our Game* report.

There are also significant benefits for the community, with recent modelling showing potential returns from investment in preschool of \$13 billion by 2050.

Ms Gagnon also welcomed a Victorian Labor announcement that a re-elected Andrews Government would fund two years of preschool. “We’re delighted to see Premier Andrews and Minister Jenny Mikakos taking leadership on preschool education.”

END – 4 October 2018

AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT Alys Gagnon, Executive Director, 0438 379977

The Parenthood is Australia’s largest not-for-profit parent advocacy group, with more than 64,000 members nationwide.

This statement refers to the 2017 *Lifting Our Game report*, available [here](#), and to PWC economic modelling on the benefits of investment in early learning, available [here](#).