



28 April 2019

PARENTS DELIGHTED BY LABOR'S PROMISE FOR CHEAPER CHILDCARE AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR PAY

The Parenthood is today warmly welcoming Bill Shorten's promised investment in early childhood education.

"Parents will be delighted by Labor's commitments to free and cheaper early childhood education," The Parenthood's Executive Director, Alys Gagnon said.

"This is huge. There's really no other way to describe it. Early childhood education is great for children and making it easier to afford is wonderful for parents.

"Anytime you speak with a parent or carer who has children in early childhood education, concerns about fees come up.

"Labor is also guaranteeing high quality early learning through funding the professional wages of the people who deliver it, something parents also know to be critical to the education of their children."

Ms Gagnon particularly welcomed moves to make childcare free for families earning less than \$69,000 a year.

"For many parents and carers, early childhood education fees present a barrier to work, especially families struggling to get by on a low income."

Ms Gagnon also welcomed Labor's promise to fund a wage increase for early childhood educators.

"Parents know how important their child's early childhood educators are.

"These women and men are dedicated professionals who are leaving the sector in droves because they simply can't afford to live on low wages. This has a huge impact on children and their learning. Parents know how hard it is when their child's favourite educator moves on.

"Paying educators properly means children can establish stable and stimulating relationships with the women and men who nurture and teach them."

The Parenthood also welcomes Labor's promise to have the ACCC investigate ways to better regulate early childhood education fees.

“Some providers, in the past, have opportunistically raised their fees around the time of subsidy increases, meaning parents don’t ever really see the benefits of that support.

“Making sure early childhood education investment benefits children and families and not providers will be very pleasing to parents.”

END - AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT Alys Gagnon, Executive Director. 0438379977