



**PARENTS CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE GREATER CERTAINTY TO
FUNDING EARLY LEARNING
MEDIA STATEMENT
Friday 3 April 2020**

There is a growing concern among parents that whilst yesterday's announcement that early learning will now be free for kids, the funding support from the government may not be enough.

The Parenthood understands that the Government's plans to fund early learning services 50 percent of their revenue is meant to work alongside services being able to access the Job Keeper package too. However, there are some centres that may not be eligible to access this, and this is creating a lot of anxiety for parents who have their kids at these services.

"We're aware, for example, that Goodstart, Australia's largest Not-for-Profit early learning provider, is not eligible for the Job Keeper package, so yesterday's announcement is going to have a huge impact on their ability to give certainty to their educators and families about how they'll continue their service." said Owen Wareham, Parenthood Board Member.

"We're also hearing a lot of concern from Family Day Care providers who see yesterday's announcement as a big funding cut to their services,

"There is no doubt that giving Australian kids free access to early learning is incredible and very much welcomed by thousands of parents, but it won't work if our educators don't have certainty in their employment and providers certainty in their capacity to continue to deliver high quality early learning and care,

"Parents are calling on the Government to ensure that every early learning provider can access the funding they need to give certainty to their educators and families. Providers and families need to be given confidence they'll have access to the resources needed to continue delivering early education now and into the future.

"We also call on the Government to ensure that educators have the support they need to maintain a safe learning environment for their children and themselves - things like adequate personal protective equipment and time to keep the highest hygiene practices are critical to help keep our kids safe and stop the spread of this virus.

END

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