

MEDIA RELEASE



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Families Using Long Day Care to Finally Have Access to Preschool Funding

Child Care New South Wales, the peak body for privately owned long day care services in NSW has welcomed today's announcement to provide subsidised preschool programs to all children, via the extended National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access.

"More and more children are receiving their preschool program in the year before school via long day care, given their parents' work hours," Child Care New South Wales President Nesha O'Neil said today.

"To date, the NSW Government has provided Universal Access funding to preschools and community-based long day care services only, despite State governments in Queensland, Victoria and South Australia sharing it equitably across the sector," Ms O'Neil explained.

The draft Productivity Commission Report on Childcare and Early Childhood Education has recommended that The Universal Access Agreement and associated funding be extended and applied equitably across the sector for children in their year before school. Professor Deborah Brennan's report to the NSW Government in 2013 recommended the funding be provided regardless of whether children received their preschool program via a preschool or long day care service.

"We are delighted that the Federal Assistant Minister for Education has listened to the experts – including those who have advised the NSW Government on this issue – and asked that the funding be provided to all early childhood education and care services, including long day care."

"We look forward to working with the NSW and Federal Governments on the implementation of this fantastic initiative for children right across the country," Ms O'Neil concluded.

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