



Joint Victorian State Election Statement

Invest in Quality Education and Care Services

25 November 2014

In the lead up to the State election on 29 November, we call on all parties to make a commitment to improve access to quality education and care services for all families and children.

As Victorian community organisations we share a belief that quality education and care services are vital for the well-being, learning and development of all children. We believe these services help build strong communities and provide immeasurable support to families. They can make a positive difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families. This is of particular importance to Aboriginal children and families. While there has been improvement in recent years, the rates of Aboriginal children accessing preschool remains significantly lower than for non-Aboriginal children. In Victoria just under one quarter of Aboriginal children in the year before school are not accessing preschool. Culturally appropriate programs for Aboriginal children support their participation in preschool and provide opportunities for early intervention to address developmental problems.

We need the next Victorian Government to commit to:

- By 2020 halving the gap in developmental outcomes, according to the Australian Early Development Census, for children from Victoria's most disadvantaged communities
- Prioritising investment to increase access to quality education and care services for vulnerable and disadvantaged families and children
- Ensuring the full benefits of quality education and care services are available to Aboriginal families and children including through expanded Aboriginal services and programs

- Full implementation of the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care as scheduled
 - Maintaining current minimum staffing qualification requirements for education and care services – including Diploma level qualifications for 50% of educators working with children under 3 years
 - Maintaining current minimum educator : child ratios in education and care services and moving to a ratio of 1 : 11 for children 3 – 5 years by 2016
 - Ongoing inclusion of preschools in the National Quality Framework
- Ensuring long term provision of funding for 15 hours of kindergarten
- Investment in Outside School Hours Care
- Maintenance of pay roll tax exemptions for not for profit education and care services.

We are proud of the progress Victoria has made in implementing the National Quality Framework. Let's keep moving towards a Victoria where every child is supported to flourish.

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VACCA
Connected by culture

