

Media Release

27 August, 2018

Where to from here for Early and Middle Childhood Education and Care in Victoria?

There has been reform and progress in early childhood education and care policy, funding support and infrastructure provision in Victoria over recent years. However, there is still a long way to go before early years programs in this State compare to OECD countries like Britain and New Zealand.

In the lead up to the Victorian Election on November 24, Early Learning Association Australia (ELAA), Community Child Care Association (CCC) and Early Childhood Australia (Victoria Branch) have invited the ALP, Liberal and Greens spokespeople on early childhood education and care to present their case for delivering the early years services and support that Victorian families, service providers, and educators need.

The spokespeople include:

Jenny Mikakos - Minister for Families and Children, Minister for Early Childhood Education, and Minister for Youth Affairs

Georgie Crozier - Shadow Minister for Families and Children

Nina Springle - Deputy Leader for the Victorian Greens and Spokesperson for Women, Families and Children.

"This Policy Debate sets the agenda for early childhood education and care going into the Victorian election," said ELAA CEO David Worland. Extending on this, Julie Price from Community Child Care Association said "It's a real opportunity to see if the Government is committed to seeing its Early Childhood Reform Plan through and to see if the other parties are serious about matching or bettering that plan."

Registrations for the debate at Northcote Town Hall are now booked out so there will be a full room of passionate early and middle years providers, educators, carers and parents eager to hear how our politicians plan to:

- Ensure access for all children to quality education and care and ultimately extend that access to two years of funded preschool.
- Ensure early and middle years learning and care programs in Victoria are supported and regulated to maintain quality standards.
- Build the capacity of Victoria's early years workforce so education and care staff are recognised, rewarded and developed appropriately as the professionals they are.
- Plan for future program development and infrastructure based on real community need, projected population growth and changing approaches to learning.

“The Victorian early childhood education and care sector has worked collaboratively on this election submission and we urge our political leaders to take action now to improve quality outcomes for the children of Victoria,” said ECA Vic Branch President, Marie Howard.

What: Victorian Early Years Policy Debate

When: Tuesday, 28 August 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Where: Northcote Town Hall, 189 High Street Northcote

ENDS

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