

# EARLY LEARNING MATTERS WEEK

## 1–6 SEPTEMBER 2019



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Richard Marles MP finds out why Early Learning Matters at Bond St Kindergarten

27 August, 2019

Bond Street Kindergarten in Newtown welcomes the Member for Corio and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Richard Marles MP, to visit on Tuesday, 5 September at 9.30am as part of Early Learning Matters Week, a national initiative of the **Early Learning Everyone Benefits** campaign.

In the first week of September, early childhood services from every state and territory have invited their local federal politicians to visit and experience quality early learning and hear from educators and parents why Early Learning matters.

The visit will be particularly special for Bond Street Kindergarten as, this year, the Kindergarten celebrates 100 years as an early childhood service in the Geelong area and 95 years at its current location.

“Early learning matters because it’s in these early years before children turn five, that children’s brains are growing the fastest and are wired to learn. It’s when the foundations for learning, health and behaviour throughout life are laid down,” said Jodie Bath, Director, Bond Street Kindergarten.

“Here at Bond Street Kindergarten we have qualified early childhood educators who provide children aged three to six, with a play-based indoor and outdoor learning environment that supports the development of social, emotional, cognitive and communication skills.”

Australian and international research shows that children who participate in one or more years of quality early learning have improved school education performance, are better able to manage their behaviour and have lower levels of hyperactivity. They are more likely to finish high school and go on to academic studies and more likely to find steady employment.

“Whilst Australia has improved in attendance of four-year-olds in preschool programs in recent years, we are still in the bottom third of developed countries for attendance in early learning for three-year-olds and younger,” said Early Learning Everyone Benefits campaign spokesperson, Samantha Page, CEO of Early Childhood Australia.

“Early Learning Matters Week is an excellent reminder of the contribution that quality early childhood education makes to the future of our children and Australia’s overall economic and social prosperity,” said Early Learning Association Australia (ELAA) CEO, David Worland.

The Early Learning Everyone Benefits campaign calls on federal politicians in both houses of parliament to:

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- ensure all Australian children have access to at least two days per week of early childhood education, irrespective of their parents' activities
- develop a whole of government Early Years Strategy to ensure no children fall through the gaps
- provide a long-term commitment to maintain current total levels of funding for Universal Access to kindergarten or preschool programs in the year before school
- extend kindergarten/preschool funding for play-based programs to support 3-year-olds
- improve quality of early education and care through ongoing support for the National Quality Agenda and workforce development initiatives
- improve support for disadvantaged children, especially those living in regional and remote areas and from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

**Contact to organise photos and interviews:** James Gardener, ELAA Communications Lead  
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To see inspiring examples of early learning activities that engage children **follow #EARLYLearningMatters on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.**

For more information about Early Learning Matters Week visit [www.everyonebenefits.org.au](http://www.everyonebenefits.org.au)

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*Early Learning Everyone Benefits is a national partnership of 27 organisations including early childhood peaks, research institutions, early childhood service providers and community organisations. Our goal is to increase community understanding of the long-term benefits of early learning for children, families, communities and the nation, and to secure political commitment to increase access to quality early learning for all children from birth to the start of school.*

