

17 September, 2020

## **Continued kinder fee relief good for children, service providers and parents**

ELAA welcomes today's announcement by the Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, and Education Minister, James Merlino of \$26.7 million in additional funding for Victorian sessional kindergarten.

"Providing community-based, local government and school sessional kindergarten programs with close to \$500 per enrolment for Term 4 helps to provide more certainty for kindergarten providers and will be a big relief to families in the current economic climate," said ELAA CEO, David Worland.

The additional announcement of funding for up to up to five extra hours per week of kinder to help vulnerable children who have had their early learning disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic is also very welcome.

"Having funding for things like enabling Primary School teachers to visit kindergartens and meet their future pupils will make the transition to school at the start of 2021 much smoother after so much disruption this year," said Mr Worland.

"It's also re-assuring to see funding being made available to set up outreach programs to re-engage Aboriginal children, those from CALD backgrounds and children with additional needs in their early learning before they head off to school next year."

In addition, the government has announced a number of initiatives including funding for targeted professional learning for early years and school teaching staff to support the transition of children to school in 2021; extra hours for early years teachers to liaise with schools in respect of children with disabilities; increased access to the School Readiness Grant Funding Program; and continued funding support to early childhood education and care services for ongoing cleaning costs and for those which are required to undertake a deep clean after recording a positive COVID-19 case.

"This all adds up to children being given the best possible start to their school experience following one of the most difficult years in living memory," said Mr Worland.

For more information or to arrange an interview with ELAA CEO, David Worland, contact James Gardener 0413 483 182.

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*ELAA is the national peak body for not-for-profit providers of early childhood education and care. Our vision is Excellence in Early Learning for Every Child. [www.elaa.org.au](http://www.elaa.org.au)*