

'Great transformation' of early education will touch all Victorians

16 June, 2022

This morning's announcement by the Andrew's Government of \$9 billion expansion of early education will change the lives of thousands of children and their families each year.

"ELAA agrees with the government when it says this represents 'the greatest transformation of early education in a generation'," said ELAA CEO, David Worland.

Key elements of the announcement include:

- a new \$9 billion investment in early education
- free 3 and 4-year-old kinder from 2023
- 50 new government owned integrated centres to deliver childcare, kinder and pre-prep
- a new universal 'Pre-prep' for 4-year-olds to be developed over the next decade with 30 hours a week of funded quality play-based learning.

"Currently, one in five children arrive for their first day of school already developmentally behind their peers," said Mr Worland. "Today's announcement of free kindergarten from 2023, a new 30-hour Pre-prep program, and 50 new government owned integrated early education centres is a game changer for children, especially vulnerable children, parents, educators, and service providers."

"It also represents real change when it comes to opportunities for women's participation in the workforce," said ELAA CEO David Worland.

Free kindergarten from 2023 will ensure that fees are not a barrier to children attending early childhood education.

"Fees pose a barrier to some children attending, so it is great to see that the importance of early childhood education is being prioritised by ensuring children can attend at no cost," added Mr Worland.

The creation of 'Pre-prep' for 4-year-olds with up to 30 hours a week of funded participation will support all children to engage in quality, play based learning before school.

"This offers the opportunity for a seismic shift in providing all families with access to high quality, play based early childhood education which is essential to children's development and is an investment in our future," said Mr Worland.

"We also welcome the announcement of 50 government operated childcare centres to provide wrap around services for children. We look forward to working with the government to expand the early education sector including ensuring Victorian has the teachers and facilities to deliver what will be a massive and life-changing transformation."

Media Release



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For more information or to arrange an interview contact James Gardener 0413 483 182.

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ELAA improves the lives of Australian families and children by supporting early childhood education and care providers that deliver quality, play-based education and care in their communities. Our vision is excellence and equity in early childhood education and care. www.elaa.org.au