



Early Learning
**EVERYONE
BENEFITS**

Election 2019 Candidate Survey on Early Childhood Education and Care

Please complete and return to: everyonebenefits@earlychildhood.org.au

In the lead up to the upcoming Federal election, voters in your electorate want know how you and your party will address the needs of our youngest citizens.

The **Early Learning Everyone Benefits campaign**, supported by more than twenty-five leading early childhood organisations, invites you to participate in this short online candidate survey to share your position on the key policy issues regarding early childhood education and care.

We will share your responses on our website - www.everyonebenefits.org.au so that voters in your electorate who care about children and their development will be able to view your position.

1. Do you support the development of a cross portfolio 'Early Years Strategy' to recognise the importance of early childhood development, family support and early learning across home, community and early childhood settings?

Yes

No

Why / why not?

2. Do you support funding to build families' understanding about their children's development in the early years as the first educators of children, by providing education, information and support for initiatives like playgroup?

- Yes
- No
- Why / why not?

3. Evidence shows that children experiencing disadvantage benefit the most from participation in quality early learning. Twice as many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are starting primary school with developmental vulnerabilities as compared to all Australian children (AEDC, 2016).

Do you support strategies to increase access to quality early learning programs for children at risk of educational disadvantage—with particular attention to the need for appropriate service models for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and rural/remote communities?

- Yes
- No

Other (please specify)

4. Since 2008, via a National Partnership Agreement, the Federal Government has funded states and territory governments to support the provision of high quality early education (preschool programs) for children in the year before school. This has resulted in increasing participation from 12 per cent in 2008 to 91 per cent in 2015.

Under the National Partnership Agreement, high quality early education (preschool) is defined as being:

- **Delivered by a degree qualified early educator**
- **15 hours a week (600 hours a year)**

Do you support Federal Government funding for universal access to high quality early learning in the year before school? (generally four year olds)

- Yes
- No

Why / why not?

5. In Australia only 58.5 per cent of three-year-olds attend a preschool program, (overall 62 per cent attend an early learning service, according to Report on Government Services, 2019). The OECD average for three-year-old attendance is 76 per cent. The top ten OECD countries have between 95-100 per cent of three year olds attending early learning. Source: Education at a Glance, 2018 OECD Indicators.

Do you support expanding universal access to high quality learning to include children two years before they start school? (Generally three year olds?)

Yes

No

Why / why not?

6. Currently the National Partnership Agreement on universal access to high quality early education has been signed and funded year to year, and there is no certainty for service providers that funding will continue beyond the end of the 2019 calendar year.

Do you support a long-term funding commitment for universal access to quality early childhood education and care (kindergarten / preschool programs)

Yes

No

Why / why not?

7. The recent reforms to the Child Care Subsidy scheme means that some children are no longer able to access subsidised early education because their parents/caregivers are not engaged in work, volunteering or study for the required eight hours per fortnight.

Do you believe that children should have the right to access at least two days per week of quality early childhood education, irrespective of their parents' workforce participation or other activity?

Yes

No

Why / why not?

8. The key to improved outcomes from children’s participation in early learning is quality. The National Quality Framework began in 2012 and has delivered improvements in quality across early education and care services. However, it is often more than three years between quality rating and assessment visits, and new services are not always being assessed in their first 12 months. In the 2018 Budget, the Federal Government withdrew its support for the National Quality Framework National Partnership Agreement and cut funding to states and territories.

Do you support a commitment to quality improvement through ongoing funding of the National Quality Framework?

Yes

No

9. Do you think it is important for all services to be assessed against the quality standards at least every three years?

Yes

No

10. A quality early education system requires well qualified staff and stable staffing. Low pay for early childhood teachers and educators contributes to high staff turnover in services. While the overall levels of qualifications across the workforce have risen over the last 10 years, early childhood teachers and educators don’t enjoy pay equity with their peers in schools.

Would you support the Federal Government resourcing workforce development strategies to address quality and capacity issues?

Yes

No

11. Do you support funded pay equity to ensure that early childhood education can be delivered by qualified educators and teachers into the future?

Yes

No

12. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

13. Please complete your contact information below so that we can confirm and publish your responses.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Electorate	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Address 2	<input type="text"/>
City/Town	<input type="text"/>
State	<input type="text"/>
Post Code	<input type="text"/>
Party	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	<input type="text"/>