

PROTECT OUR PRESCHOOLS.



FACT SHEET

WHY CHILDREN NEED PRESCHOOL – AND PRESCHOOLS NEED FUNDING

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PRESCHOOL?

- Quality preschool is the best head start children can have to their education. It gets them ready for school and delivers long-term benefits to their learning.
- Evidence shows that children benefit from preschool from the age of three, and that disadvantaged children benefit more.
- Researcher Stacey Fox from Victoria University says that:
“We’ve looked across the international research literature. We’ve spoken to preschool teachers and child development experts in Australia and there’s an overwhelming consensus that two years of preschool gives children the best start.”
- She says research shows 15 hours a week is the right level for children to get all preschool’s benefits.
- Economic experts at the Productivity Commission agree and say preschool is vital for our children and our economic future

HOW DOES AUSTRALIA COMPARE WITH THE WORLD?

- In Australia, 95% of four-year-olds are enrolled in preschool for 15 hours a week, thanks to a funding agreement between state and federal governments that began in 2013.
- However we lag behind other developed countries both in investment in preschool and the number of children attending.
- New Zealand funds preschool for all three-year-olds, as do France, Norway, the UK and other countries.

WHY IS FUNDING AT RISK?

- The Federal Government has only committed to its share of preschool funding until the end of 2017.
- Without ongoing funding some children won’t get the benefits of quality preschool before they start school.
- To show your support visit www.protectourpreschools.com.au and sign our petition for ongoing federal funding for preschool.

SIGN THE PETITION

protectourpreschools.com.au

