

Advocacy area

Liberal/National Party in government



1 Children who start behind, stay behind.

Two years of quality, affordable, preschool education for every child

Supports one year of universal access to preschool in 2020. Prepared to 'work with the states and territories to support a longer-term plan'.
\$4.9m to improve preschool data and to fund The Smith Family to work with the states and territories and disadvantaged communities to improve participation.

Quote source: Early Learning: Everyone Benefits

2 To the greatest need, for the greatest return.

Scrap or reform the unfair Activity Test for CCS

Stands by current Activity Test for CCS, offering maximum 12 hours subsidy per week for families who do not meet the Activity Test for study, work or volunteering. Points to the Safety Net provisions which waive the Activity Test for vulnerable families.
\$4m to enhance child care subsidy.

3 Attract, train & retain great educators

We need a national Workforce Strategy and fair pay for quality educators

No workforce strategy in place. No plans announced during campaign. Strongly opposed to any government intervention in ECE pay or conditions. Supported the recent Senate Sub-committee 'red tape' report finding that qualifications for early childhood educators need to be reviewed as training may not be necessary in all roles.

4 Support our NQF

We've worked too hard to lose the NQF or see its independence become just another Federal government scheme.

Removed \$20m National Quality Framework funding in 2018. No commitment to the NQF or national collaboration for the future. Forecast 'ongoing Commonwealth leadership following the completion of the partnership agreement with states and territories [in 2020]'.
Quote source: Simon Birmingham media release 8 May 2018

Where to from here?

CELA will continue to advocate for the importance of early education with the re-elected government. We will work with the new government to:

- identify the real figures on the impact of the activity test for disadvantaged children
- present the clear case to raise children's education & wellbeing outcomes with two years of preschool
- address workforce issues across the sector, including professional wages
- remove qualifications from the category of 'red tape'
- develop meaningful strategies for addressing the needs of more 60,000 children who are developmentally vulnerable and start school behind their peers.

Reach out

To find your local Federal Member of Parliament, confirm your electorate here <https://electorate.aec.gov.au/> and then search the electorate on Google or here <https://www.aph.gov.au/> to get the MP's name and email.

Contact CELA on info@cela.org.au with your issues so we can keep representing you with state and national governments.