



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate distribution

KPV welcomes new national quality framework

KPV welcomes the new national quality framework for early childhood education and care as agreed yesterday at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) says Emma King, CEO of Kindergarten Parents Victoria, the peak body for early childhood education in Victoria. "We believe these changes are imperative for high quality children's services ensuring that all children have the best start in life".

"The importance of high quality children's services cannot be understated. The available research demonstrates that all the National Quality Standard initiatives are critical to providing high quality early childhood education and care. It is clear that children experience better outcomes with lower staff to child ratios, enabling children to develop strong relationships with their educators. This is especially significant for very young children and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Benefits include short and long term developmental, wellbeing and learning outcomes as well as other immediate benefits associated with children experiencing care and education that is of high quality" Emma King said.

KPV knows that the benefits of quality universal programs outweigh the associated costs, especially for vulnerable children. We believe that all children deserve the best start in life and the improvements announced by COAG will ensure that these services are delivered in a timely manner.

KPV looks forward to working collaboratively with government and all stakeholders to ensure that services are appropriately resourced and supported to implement these important changes. A cohesive and well funded service system is key to delivering these changes. Whilst the new national framework will create significant challenges for services throughout Victoria it will enable real and significant benefits to be delivered for all families and our communities.

Emma King, CEO of Kindergarten Parents Victoria is available for interview on **0417 387 491** or **03 489 3500**. Kindergarten Parents Victoria is the peak organization and employer body promoting the voice of parents in early childhood education for Victorian children, representing over 1000 services educating and supporting more than 200,000 Victorian children and their families each year.

End media release