



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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VISION:
EVERY
YOUNG
CHILD IS
THRIVING
AND
LEARNING**

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 4 August 2021

ECA WELCOMES CLOSING THE GAP INVESTMENT IN EARLY EDUCATION

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) welcomes the federal government's investment aimed at *Closing the Gap* for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in early childhood education.

ECA CEO Samantha Page believes that this commitment will enable many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to access high-quality early childhood education and care, providing a strong foundation for lifelong learning, health and wellbeing.

'We know that 2 in 5 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are developmentally vulnerable when they start school. This investment will ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, particularly in rural and remote areas, won't miss out on the critical benefits of early learning,' said Ms Page.

'ECA also supports the investment in high-quality, culturally appropriate community-controlled services. ECA has been advocating for this for some time, calling for additional funding in our [Pre-Budget submission 2021-22](#).

'Partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations is vital to the success of the new measures and to meet community needs. The Closing the Gap in Early Childhood Education package announced today is a great step forward,' added Ms Page.

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ECA CEO Samantha Page is available for comment. For interviews, contact ECA Communications Manager Lisa Wylde on 0475 554 999

For a downloadable PDF version of this media release, visit: www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/media/

Early Childhood Australia is the peak advocacy body for children from birth to eight years, their families and early childhood professionals.