



Early childhood education firmly on the politicians' agenda

Huge injection into early childhood education

KPV applauds the politicians for listening!

Kindergartens will finally get 'a bigger slice of the pie'.

KPV is pleased to see that the politicians have listened to KPV's 'a bigger slice of the pie' campaign. Over the past few months, KPV and its members have campaigned to highlight the need for all political parties to make kindergarten a priority and give kindergartens and early childhood education a bigger slice of the pie.

The release of the government's kindergarten policy this week meets many of our campaign priorities and injects much-needed funds to help make kindergarten affordable and accessible for all children and their families.

KPV President, Annette Mutimer said: We applaud both political parties for their commitment to early childhood education through their recent policy initiatives. We look forward to working with the Government of the day to improve access for all children and easing the burden on parents.

KPV's campaign priorities – what each political party is committing to

Priorities	KPV recommends	Labor's policy	Liberal's policy
Affordability	Increase fee subsidy to remove fees for low-income families in three and four-year-old kindergarten. Cost: \$8.5m (per annum)	Lift the kindergarten subsidy from \$320 to \$730 a year for health Care Card Holders to ensure kindergarten is accessible to the 17,000 four-year-old children from low income families. Cost: \$28.9m (over four years)	Provide kindergarten fee relief through a grant of \$730 per year on fees for four-year-olds from the start of 2007, paid directly to kindergartens. (being of 2007)
Accreditation — a quality guarantee	Introduction of a quality guarantee system for the five Ps: professionalism, place, policy, practice and play-based curriculum. Cost: \$1.9m	Upgrade the skills of kindergarten teachers and early childhood workers through scholarships, bridging courses, professional development and training Cost: \$4m (over four years)	
Committee workload	Increase cluster and regional managers' ability to take on onerous committee responsibilities while maintaining community involvement. Cost \$0.8m (per annum)	Reduce the burden of parent-run kindergartens, support and expand management support systems (cluster management grants increased by \$1700 per site) and assist KPV to establish projects with local government to better support parent committees. Total cost: \$6.2m (over four years)	Provide administrative support for an expanded network of kindergarten clusters Cost: \$500,000 (per annum) Provide financial support to KPV to introduce a new collaborative service planning model across a network of early years providers, including clusters managers, standalone kindergartens, childcare centres and children's hubs. Cost: \$300,000
Uncovering what a move to the Education Department really means	KPV wants full details before recommending a move.	Staying under the Office for Children together with other early years services.	Progressively transfer the supervision of kindergartens to the Department of Education
Additional needs children	Increase resources and funding for children with additional needs. Cost: \$10m (per annum)	Improve early intervention services for children with special needs. Cost: \$6.2m (over four years)	
Better buildings, more flexibility	Capital works program to renew ageing facilities and enable centres to offer more varied services. Cost: \$10m (per annum)	Investing to upgrade and better equip existing not-for-profit kindergartens and child care centres and reduce the pressure on fees and fundraising. Cost: \$15m (over four years)	Create a capital fund for kindergarten maintenance over five years Cost: \$10.5m (over five years)