



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN, TEACHERS & PARENTS THE WINNERS FROM GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO KINDERGARTENS

Kindergarten Parents Victoria (KPV) today congratulated the State Government on its unparalleled commitment to kindergarten education by adopting a new three-year Multi Employer Certified Agreement (MECA). *MECA 2005* is a groundbreaking deal that will see significant improvements in terms and conditions for kindergarten teachers, including substantial wage increases, and meets KPV's commitment to attract and retain quality staff.

"This is a vital breakthrough," says CEO of KPV Gerard Mansour whose organisation played a significant leadership role in the lengthy negotiations to complete *MECA 2005* with the Australian Education Union and the State Government. "For the first time, professional standards will underpin the practice of teachers. This is an enormous victory for children because we are ensuring the attraction of quality early childhood teachers now and into the future. Research clearly indicates that it's the staff who play such an important role in providing a quality program."

Under the MECA teachers will receive three, 3% wage increases, the first backdated to October 1, 2005 and translation to a new classification structure based on teaching standards and a validation process. There is additional funding for preschool field officers and early intervention officers.

KPV President Annette Mutimer says "This is just the start we need to implement the key priorities in KPV's *Vision 2011*. The new classification and salary structure means we can now address our central concerns regarding staff retention. I am confident that kindergartens will now be able to recruit new graduates and retain our dedicated workforce into the future".

## About KPV

KPV is the leading peak organisation that develops promotes and sustains quality early childhood education. KPV has extensive membership from the broader children's services industry, including kindergartens, childcare centres, local government, cluster managers and other affiliated organisations. Through its membership base, KPV represents over 60,000 families statewide.

## Media

**Gerard Mansour, CEO of Kindergarten Parents Victoria is available for interview on 0410 418 631 or contact Brett de Hoedt, Mayor, Hootville Communications on 0414 713 802.**