

KPV Priorities for State Budget 2008/09

KPV responded to the State Treasurer's request for advice on state budget priorities for 2008/09. KPV confirmed that our priorities for the next three years remain as indicated in our formal 2007/08 budget submission. In particular these priorities include:

- Extend full funding for kindergarten to all four year olds
- Continue to introduce funding for 3 year old kindergarten supporting programs for vulnerable children as the highest priority
- Improve funding for KISS and/or other relevant programs to support preschoolers with disabilities and expand the eligibility criteria
- Introduce further measures to reduce the pressure on voluntary committees of management including:
 - funding to provide administrative support for committees that are not participants in cluster management (noting that cluster management is not always an option available in all geographic areas of the state) and
 - streamlining the amount and complexity of paperwork required by the Office for Children.
- Funding for both:
 - the development and provision of better information about cluster management, and to
 - better support cluster managers themselves.
- Continued funding for ICT support in preschools including upgrade of computer equipment across the sector.
- Resolve the issue of provision for portability of long service leave and sick leave since 1994 including support the establishment of a working party of all relevant stakeholders: DEECD, AEU, MAV, KPV and Treasury to address this issue.
- Continue to expand capital funding for preschool infrastructure including funding to enable existing to enable existing preschools to expand the range of hours and services offered to their community and to support further improvements in the linkages and integration of relevant early years programs.

Some of these priorities are reinforced by the responses to the latest KPV member survey, eg . funding for three year old kindergarten programs.