



## MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate distribution

### **KPV commends the State Government's investment of \$19.4 million in children's services infrastructure**

Kindergarten Parents Victoria applauds the State Government's decision to invest \$19.4 million to support early year's services in Victoria as announced today.

"We are pleased that the State Government has responded to community demand with the provision of grants for service development, particularly in the growth suburbs and regional areas where our members are under pressure to provide enough kindergarten places for families in their communities." Emma King, CEO of Kindergarten Parents Victoria, the peak body for early childhood education in Victoria, said today. "We know that not all Victorian children have been able to benefit from this vital year of education in the past."

"With the increase in demand for kindergarten places, coupled with the current baby boom, places for children in quality programs is a key concern for many young families. The State Government, with this response, is demonstrating a genuine commitment to address the challenges facing early childhood services" said Ms King.

"However, it is more important than ever that the State and Commonwealth Governments continue their commitment made through the Council of Australian Governments that *by 2013 every child has access to a quality early childhood education program in the year before formal school* by fully funding national quality reform costs and commit to fully funding four year old and three year old kindergarten programs" said Ms King

"By fully funding 15 hours of four year old kindergarten and a minimum of five hours of three year old kindergarten, all children would be able to access the economic, social, health and well-being advantages that two years of fully funded kindergarten programs provide, irrespective of their family circumstances."

**Emma King, CEO of Kindergarten Parents Victoria is available for interview on 0417 387 491 or 03 9489 3500.**

Kindergarten Parents Victoria (KPV) is the peak organisation and employer body promoting quality early childhood education for Victorian children, representing over 1,000 centres serving more than 200,000 Victorian children and families each year.

**\*End media release\***