



MEDIA RELEASE

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Young families are \$40.25 million out-of-pocket to educate the next generation of Victorians

“Victorian families are paying substantial fees to send their children to kindergarten and we know many children are missing out on this important start to their formal education because families simply can’t afford to pay”, Emma King, CEO of Kindergarten Parents Victoria, the peak body representing early childhood education in Victoria, said today. “Families are paying over \$40 million per annum, which accounts for 40% of the cost per child to deliver kindergarten programs, to pay for their children to go to kindergarten.”

Kindergarten Parents Victoria has announced its election priorities for the upcoming State election which highlights the funding short fall in early childhood education that is paid for by parent fees.

“Families that don’t qualify for subsidies need to find a minimum of \$820 per year to pay the fees to send their child to kindergarten. For many families that struggle to meet the day-to-day costs of living this is a significant amount of money, and often is a cost that cannot be met within a tight family budget. We call on all politicians to demonstrate their commitment to the extraordinary benefits that can be provided to all children through quality early childhood education by fully funding 15 hours of four year old kindergarten and a minimum of five hours of three year old kindergarten” said Ms King.

“It is easy to overlook the importance of making the investment in early childhood education because the returns are not always reaped in the short term. The rhetoric of politicians needs to be put into action now” said Ms King.

Download the *KPV Key Election Priorities* at www.kpv.org.au

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

KPV is the peak organisation representing the voice of parents in quality early childhood education for Victorian children. Our membership represents over 1200 early education and care providers such as independent kindergartens, cluster managers, long day care services, and local governments. We advocate for quality early childhood education for over 200,000 children and their families.

End media release