



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate distribution

KPV confident industrial agreement will enhance quality in early childhood education

Kindergarten Parents Victoria, the peak body for early childhood education in Victoria, has signed a Heads of Agreement with the AEU, MAV and LHMU to secure improved quality in the early childhood sector. The Agreement forms the basis of a four year Multi-Business Agreement effective as of 3 May 2009 (subject to authorisation by members). Key features are a new salary classification structure with increases for teachers achieving pay parity with school colleagues at both ends of the scale. The pay scale for assistants has also been revised in recognition of their increased qualifications and responsibilities.

KPV CEO Meredith Carter said that KPV is pleased with these outcomes for early childhood educators and is confident the new agreement will help the sector implement initiatives outlined in both the Victorian Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development and the COAG plan for early childhood – initiatives such as 15 hours per week of preschool education and transition plans for all children.

“Our focus is on quality,” said Ms Carter. “This agreement will help deliver improved outcomes for children as well as helping attract and retain professionals in early childhood education” she said.

“We are pleased that the state government has agreed to help fund the salary increases and will also significantly increase the kindergarten fee subsidy for concession card holders,” Ms Carter said. “This will be especially important given the economic downturn. Whilst recognising this significant gain we are disappointed that the government contribution does not fully fund the increases. We will work with our members to minimise any impact on parent fees.”

The new agreement also includes:

- One off lump sum payments for teachers and assistants (second year and above) Preschool Field Officers and Advisers;
- Access to 14 weeks paid maternity leave;
- A reduction in hours from 40 to 38 hours per week from 2010;
- An increase in contact time from 24 hours per week to 25.5 hours per week in 2011 as part of progress towards 25 hours programs.

Detailed information will be posted on the KPV website and sent to members this week.

Meredith Carter, CEO of Kindergarten Parents Victoria is available for interview on 0400 511 763 or 03 9489 3500.

Kindergarten Parents Victoria (KPV) is the peak organisation and employer body promoting the voice of parents in quality early childhood education for Victorian children, representing over 1000 centres serving more than 200,000 Victorian children and families each year.