



MEDIA RELEASE

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KPV applauds Labor's pledge of \$180 million "investment in future generations"

"The Labor Party's pledge to invest \$180 million in early childhood services acknowledges that education starts from birth" said Emma King, CEO of peak body Kindergarten Parents Victoria, in response to Premier John Brumby's announcement made at the ALP's state election campaign launch at Bendigo this morning.

"Our election priorities call upon the major parties contesting this year's election to make a commitment to invest in early childhood education so it is affordable, accessible and of high quality for all Victorian children. Today's announcement is an unprecedented investment in the early years and addresses some of the significant issues faced by our sector" Ms King said.

"KPV and our members welcome this announcement which comes amidst a growing concern about the impact of the population boom in Victoria, the introduction of 15 hours of kindergarten education for four year olds, and the introduction of the national quality framework." Ms King said. "The critical investment in infrastructure is vital to ensure that three year olds as well as four year olds have access to a kindergarten program. Research shows that access to high quality education at the earliest possible opportunity delivers significant benefits to children, their families and the broader community" Ms King said.

KPV calls upon the major parties to continue to invest in improving the quality of early childhood services, including the development of the early childhood education workforce. "The announcement of a \$4 million scholarship fund to upgrade the early education workforce is a good start, we are entrusting our children's education and development in the crucial early years to this workforce, and they need to be well supported and remunerated to do their job" Ms King said.

KPV also welcomes the much needed investment in early intervention services, and kindergarten inclusion support programs which will ensure children with disabilities will receive vital early years support to maximise their potential.

KPV hopes that today's announcement takes into account the specific needs of kindergartens in rural communities and remote areas in Victoria and so that early childhood education is accessible to children in these communities.

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**