



30th January 2017

Dear Member

We write to you seeking your support to campaign for secure, permanent funding for 15 hours of preschool education for all children.

Children currently access 15 hours of preschool each week delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher and educators through a National Partnership Agreement between the Commonwealth and States/Territories. **This funding will run out at the end of 2017 unless the Turnbull government commit to permanent investment in Universal Access.**

Without this commitment preschool funding could be cut by a third in Victoria and children will return to 10 hours of education per week. This will have a detrimental impact on children, families and the workforce.

We know that high-quality preschool education sets children up for life. They deserve nothing less. Parents deserve certainty and staff deserve job security.

On two occasions now the AEU and its members have campaigned successfully to secure funding. It is frustrating that we find ourselves yet again at the mercy of the Commonwealth Government to make this important investment in our childrens' early education. We cannot be complacent and expect this funding to be delivered. We must actively campaign.

We ask you, your colleagues and community to do the following. Please see over for industrial advice on participating in these activities.

- **Ask parents to sign the 8 postcards enclosed and return to the AEU in the envelope provided by the 13th March or sooner.** Across Australia we are distributing 20,000 postcards which we will use for a lobbying activity in Canberra on the 22nd March. **We must have all postcards returned.** More can be downloaded and printed from www.protectourpreschools.com.au/launch-of-campaign-resources/
- **Invite your local Liberal / National / Independent federal politician and local newspaper to visit your centre.** Show them the important learning that occurs at your preschool. Ask parents to join you in telling these stories to your local representative. If your Liberal / National MP cannot visit, try to secure a meeting at their electorate office and take a delegation of staff and parents. **This is the most important activity we can do and will have the greatest impact.** If you're represented by Labor or Greens, invite them also. A template invitation, politician briefing note and pledge sign are available at www.protectourpreschools.com.au/launch-of-campaign-resources/. Ask your politician to sign the pledge and take a photo. You can identify your local politicians at http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members
- **Take photos of all campaign activities and post to our Facebook page "Early Childhood Teachers Victoria".** We'll ensure they are also posted on the public Facebook campaign page.
- **Provide parents with a copy of the parent letter and encourage them to also take action.** Ask them to sign the online petition on the Protect our Preschools website and join our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/protectourpreschools/>. Identify key parents who will join you in lobbying activities.
- **Download and display the campaign poster** from the website in a prominent position at your workplace.
- **Ask your colleagues, friends and families to sign the online petition www.protectourpreschools.com.au.**

Thank you for your support

Martel Menz
Vice President Early Childhood

Cara Nightingale
Deputy Vice President Early Childhood

Industrial advice for participating in campaign activities.

1. Wearing Campaign Clothing:

Members may wear campaign clothing (i.e.: T-shirt, badge) to work as long as it is not inconsistent with a clothing/uniform policy.

2. Speaking with the media:

Members may speak with the media as long as it does not interrupt the performance of work. Your employer may also have a policy on this.

3. Promoting petition to parents:

Members may promote a petition and/or distribute information to parents as long as it does not interrupt the performance of work.

4. Displaying posters:

Members may put up posters as long as it does not interrupt the performance of work.

5. Information in newsletters/emails:

Members should seek approval from their employer to put information in newsletters/emails about the 15 hours campaign.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Membership Support Centre on 9417 2822. We need to be made aware of any employers limiting or stopping the capacity of members to lawfully advocate.