



**THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP**  
**Member for Kooyong**  
**Minister for the Environment and Energy**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**15 HOURS OF PRESCHOOL A WEEK FOR ALL KOOYONG CHILDREN**

More than 1,800 children across Kooyong will benefit from a more than \$400 million preschool funding boost announced by the Turnbull Government.

Kooyong will receive \$2.39 million for 1,891 local preschoolers ensuring they have access to 15 hours a week of quality early learning in the year before they start school.

The Turnbull Government wants to give our littlest learners in Kooyong the best start to their education.

We know that a quality preschool education is essential for laying the foundations for successful learning, including transition to full-time school and future school success.

This \$2.39 million for an expected 1,891 preschool enrolments in Kooyong gives certainty for families and children.

It means children in the year before school will continue to have access to 15 hours of preschool a week (600 hours a year) in 2019.

The Turnbull Government had extended the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education.

Between our \$427.8 million this year and \$440 million in 2019 for preschool as well as our overhaul of the child care system and \$2.5 billion extra investment, the Turnbull Government's commitment to early childhood education and care and is clear.

The challenge we now need to confront is that for all of the funding support, more than a quarter of children enrolled for preschool aren't attending for the full 15 hours.

That means some children in the earliest years of education are starting behind the pack.

States must find ways to motivate the parents of educationally vulnerable preschoolers to both enrol and attend, otherwise we risk a lost generation of children who start school too far behind their counterparts.

This extension of the National Partnership gives us time to work through these issues and develop an enduring policy beyond 2019 that ensures children are not just enrolling, but attending and benefiting from preschool programs in readiness for school.

(ENDS)

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