

Wednesday 4th May 2016

Families forced to wait another year for more affordable childcare

Australia's largest childcare and early learning provider has expressed 'extreme disappointment' that the Government has decided to delay by another year the implementation of reforms to make childcare more affordable.

Goodstart Early Learning Chief Executive Officer Julia Davison said families had been waiting a long time for the Government to deliver on its 2013 election promise to make childcare more affordable and accessible, and now would have to wait another year until at least July 2018 for relief.

"We are extremely disappointed that the Government has delayed its package to make childcare more affordable to July 2018," she said.

"This decision will cost the one million Australian families using childcare on average around \$30 a week, and increase their total out of pocket childcare costs by over \$1 billion in 2017-18.

"Working mothers pay more in tax than they receive in childcare assistance, and this decision has made the job of balancing work and family responsibilities that much harder," she said.

Notes for editors

Goodstart Early Learning is a not for profit social enterprise that is the largest provider of early learning and child care in Australia with 643 centres servicing over 60,000 families. The Goodstart syndicate comprises Mission Australia, Social Ventures Australia, The Brotherhood of St Laurence, and the Benevolent Society. More info: www.goodstart.org.au.

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