

**Submission Re: Review into National Funding and Policy for  
Education of Children in the Year before Full-time School**

IEUA-QNT welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback regarding National Funding for Universal Access to Early Childhood Education in the year before full-time school.

IEUA-QNT represents ~17,000 teachers, support staff and ancillary staff in non-government education institutions in Queensland and the Northern Territory and consistently engages in industrial and education debate at both state and national levels through its Education and Industrial Committees and through its national counterpart, the Independent Education Union of Australia, which receives input from teachers in all States and Territories.

Our union notes the questions put forward in the Discussion Paper and has responded to these by: 1) attending a stakeholder consultation session in Brisbane on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October; 2) having a union officer complete the online survey and; 3) encouraging individual members to lodge their own responses via the online survey.

We do however, wish to raise an additional point of significance through this written submission.

As you are no doubt aware, government funding for universal access has been approached, by successive governments, on a piecemeal basis with numerous one-year extensions in lieu of any significant, long-term commitment. In this context, we would argue that a genuine commitment to universal access, and acknowledgement of the many social and economic benefits derived from quality early childhood education [1-5], should be signalled by committing to long-term funding.

While we acknowledge that the discussion questions are important, we believe the question of long-term funding for the sector is a more critical issue as it is only when early childhood teachers and educators have stable and secure working environments that they can deliver the highest quality education to children.

We thank Nous Group for the opportunity to engage in consultation and would welcome the opportunity to participate in further discussion.



**Terry Burke**  
**Branch Secretary**  
**Independent Education Union of Australia**  
**Queensland and Northern Territory Branch**  
**3rd October 2019**

**References**

1. Heckman\_Equation, *James Heckman changes the equation for American prosperity*. 2013, The Heckman Equation.

2. Elango, S., et al., *Early Childhood Education in Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group Working Paper No. 2015-017*. 2015, University of Chicago: Chicago.
3. Campbell, F., et al., *Early Childhood Investments Substantially Boost Adult Health*. *Science*, 2014. **343**: p. 1478-1485.
4. Heckman, J.J. and L.K. Raut, *Intergenerational Long Term Effects of Preschool - Structural Estimates from a Discrete Dynamic Programming Model NBER Working Paper 19077*. 2013, National Bureau of Economic Research: Cambridge.
5. Heckman, J.J., *Schools, Skills and Synapses*. *Economic Inquiry*, 2008. **46**(3): p. 289.