

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Government increase to childcare funding will help Australian families

Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) thanks the Albanese Government for its re-election pledge to establish a \$1 billion 'Building Early Education Fund' to be introduced from July 2025.

CSPA's Chair Andrea Obeyesekere says: "This financial commitment to deliver more early education centres across Australia and co-locating these facilities at existing schools will provide our families with certainty around access to early education opportunities for their children.

"Access to early education for families is vital. We are aware of the many benefits relating to early education access, particularly when it comes to transitioning into school. At a time when so many of our families are working hard, facing cost-of-living pressures and are time-poor, the additional potential of a one-stop drop-off and one-stop pick-up would be a welcome relief."

The new 'three-day guarantee' also provides certainty that will assist our families, especially those looking to re-enter the workforce. This means that parents considering a return to work or career change will have the option to either enter the workforce or pursue tertiary study with the assurance that their children are getting the best possible start in life.

The Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has stated: "We think children should have guaranteed access to at least three days of high-quality early education and care – because early education is about changing lives."

"The commitment by the government to boost funding in early education, in high demand areas, across all school sectors with the additional recent pay rise for the early educator workforce will ultimately provide our families with the education options they need to prepare their children for the future," said Ms Obeyesekere.

CSPA looks forward to working with the government to realise this important early education initiative.

ENDS

*There are approximately 450,000 families whose children attend, 1,756 Catholic schools educating 800,000 or one in five Australian students and employing 109,000 staff. Source – National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC)*

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