

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of Australian citizens, draws to the attention of the House, the uncertainty that faces both parents and educators of early childhood beyond the conclusion of the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access which terminates on 31 December 2014.

The partnership is currently under review leaving parents and educators without any ability to plan their finances, employment commitments or budgets for 2015, as no decision has been made to commit to further funding under the partnership or other similar arrangement.

Research clearly supports the notion that *starting earlier and spending more hours at kindergarten can significantly improve school success and has benefits into adulthood, particularly for disadvantaged children.*

We the undersigned Australian Citizens ask the House to:

Urgently commit to continue federal funding that ensures access to 15 hours of kindergarten per week for all Australian preschool children in the year before school beyond 31 December 2014.