

Primary principals welcome preschool certainty

The Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) has welcomed the Commonwealth Government's decision to maintain 15 hours of preschool per week for 4 year-old Australian children over the coming year.

APPA President, Norm Hart, said that the extension of the National Partnership arrangements for a further year provides certainty for families who can continue to access up to 15 hours of preschool per week in 2015.

"APPA believes that 15 hours per week provides children with greater readiness for schools," Mr Hart said.

"We were very concerned that a reduction in Commonwealth support would lead to reduced hours, and therefore a lower level of engagement with preschools.

"A reduction may also force the closure of some preschool programs, or cause a burden for parents in finding alternatives.

"We believe 15 hours of preschool for 4 year-old children is the minimum amount of time required for future success at school for children, especially those most disadvantaged."

Australian primary principals understand the vital role an effective preschool program plays in maximising the opportunity for Australian children to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.

Mr Hart said, "APPA will continue to advocate for funding certainty for families wishing to access preschool programs beyond 2015, particularly when the Productivity Commission report on childcare and early learning is yet to be completed."

APPA is the professional association representing 7,200 school leaders in Government, Independent and Catholic schools across Australia.

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