**Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development**

**18/85 National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education
(NP UAECE) – 2018**

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| **Summary of Impacts** |
| * Engagement with quality early childhood education programs before full time school contributes to children’s early learning, socialisation and development, and has longer term benefits for children, families and society through increased participation, economic productivity and social inclusion.
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*Key to impacts: Red - negative, Amber - neutral and Green - positive*

**Social**

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| **Access to services**  | * The NP UAECE ensures access to affordable early childhood education programs for all eligible children in Australia in the year before full-time school.
* To ensure high quality of the programs provided, the NP UAECE specifies that the programs be delivered by a qualified early childhood education teacher who meets the National Quality Framework criteria, as a requirement.
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| **Access to social networks and community activities**  | * Engagement with quality early childhood education programs will further increase and ensure positive life outcomes for children, especially Indigenous children and those from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds. The benefits will positively affect their families and the community, allowing for a better educated, socially aware and inclusive generation.
* Investment and improvements to affordability of these programs also allows parents and families to return to employment sooner, resulting in greater workforce and economic participation and overall significant social benefits to society.
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| **Human Rights**  | * Access to education is a recognised human right. By providing quality early childhood education programs, and enabling children and their families to access benefits through the NP UAECE, regardless of whether the programs are delivered through schools, standalone preschools or long day care centres, ensures that children can transition well into fulltime schooling.
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| **Indigenous and Multicultural**  | * The key outcomes of the NP UAECE focuses on ensuring access to quality early childhood education programs by delivering strategies and actions targeting the participation of Indigenous children, including children living in remote areas. The emphasis placed on equitable access to services also results in bridging and preventing gaps in learning, participation and achievement seen in these children.
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| **Disadvantaged and vulnerable**  | * The key outcomes of the NP UAECE focuses on ensuring access to quality early childhood education programs by delivering strategies and actions targeting the participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged children. The emphasis placed on equitable access to services also results in bridging and preventing learning, participation and achievement gaps.
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**Economic**

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| **ACT Government Budget**  | * The Commonwealth Government will provide a $9 million contribution under the NP UAECE 2018 to ensure that all eligible ACT children will have access to 15 hours per week of quality early childhood education programs in the year before full time schooling, for the period of 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018. This is a $2 million increase in funding from the previous agreements. The correspondence from the Commonwealth Minister for Education and Training also informs the ACT of the Commonwealth intention to further extend the NP UAECE for 2019, which allows continuity of services until future arrangements are considered.
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| **Income levels and distribution/ Cost of living** | * The NP UAECE is mindful that the provision and access to these early childhood education programs does not come at a cost which will present a barrier to participation for any child, particularly for vulnerable and disadvantaged children.
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| **Investment and Economic Growth** | * Investment in to quality early childhood education ensures long term benefits to the children, resulting in significant improvements to their quality of life and greater participation rates in the economy, with increased potential for accessing higher levels of education and higher levels of earning potential. Access to these services also allows and supports parents and families to return to employment sooner, resulting in expanded economic activity and growth.
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**Environmental**

Not applicable