



**Joy Burch MLA** MINISTER FOR  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING MINISTER FOR  
DISABILITY  
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTER FOR RACING AND GAMING  
MINISTER FOR WOMEN MINISTER  
FOR THE ARTS

MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

17 September 2015

### **Fifteen hours a week of free public preschool in 2016**

Minister for Education and Training Joy Burch today was pleased to deliver certainty to Canberra families today by announcing that ACT public preschools will continue to offer 15 hours per week of free preschool in 2016.

“The ACT Government has long recognised that early childhood education is pivotal to a child’s learning and wellbeing,” Ms Burch said.

“We are committed to families being able to access affordable, high quality preschool education. We acknowledge that lifelong learning is the foundation for Canberra’s ongoing prosperity, and want every child to have the opportunity to thrive.

“I know that Canberra families with young ones will be absolutely delighted by this news.”

The ACT and Federal Governments are close to signing the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education for 2016-17, which will allow the delivery of this free 15 hours per week for Canberra families in ACT public preschools.

“The ACT continues to be one of the only jurisdictions to offer free public preschool for 15 hours per week to all four year old children in the year before formal schooling. This significant investment reflects our belief in the critical importance of a quality early childhood education system to positively impact on a child’s development.

“I can provide a guarantee that the ACT Government remains committed to the provision of high quality, affordable education for preschool aged children.

“And that is why I am pleased to announce the ACT will continue to offer 15 hours of free preschool education in 2016,” Ms Burch concluded.

ACT public school principals will now advise families of preschool hours for 2016 and continue the enrolment process.

**Statement Ends**