



CHIEF MINISTER

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Ms Correna Haythorpe
Federal President
Australian Education Union
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Dear Ms Haythorpe

Thank you for your letter of 5 December 2016, co-signed by Mr Jarvis Ryan, President of the Australian Education Union Northern Territory Branch, seeking the Northern Territory Government's assistance in lobbying the Australian Government for the provision of permanent federal funding of 15 hours per week universal access to preschool.

Children in Northern Territory government schools currently receive 15 hours of free preschool per week. The Northern Territory Government funds 12 hours and funding from the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education covers an additional three hours to meet the National Partnership criteria of 15 hours per week, 40 weeks per year.

I would like to assure you that as part of my commitment to place children at the forefront of government's work, the Northern Territory will continue to work closely with the Australian Government and other jurisdictions for a long-term funding solution to early childhood education and care.

I acknowledge and thank the Australian Education Union for its work in advocating for high quality early childhood education and wish you continued success in 2017.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Susan Bowden, General Manager Early Childhood Education and Care, Department of Education, on telephone (08) 8901 1350 or at susan.bowden@nt.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL GUNNER

4/1/17