



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Education and Training**

Our Ref MC18-004047

Mayor David O'Loughlin  
Australian Local Government Association  
8 Geils Court  
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor O'Loughlin

Thank you for your letter of 8 August 2018 to Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, regarding the resolutions carried at the National Government Assembly of Local Government (NGA) held in June 2018. The issues you have raised now fall under the portfolio responsibilities of the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Education. I have been asked to reply on the Minister's behalf.

With regard to Resolutions 53 and 90, the Australian Government remains committed to ensuring that future preschool policy is as effective as possible. As mentioned in Senator Birmingham's last letter to you on 24 October 2017, the Government's priority is ensuring that all children are participating, not just enrolling, and fully benefiting from the 600 hours of preschool on offer.

As you would be aware, earlier this year, the Government announced a further \$440 million for preschool for 2019 to continue Commonwealth support for 15 hours of quality preschool a week for every child in the year before school. This support provides all governments with time to work collaboratively to address issues in the sector and develop future arrangements.

Ultimately, achieving the strongest possible early learning sector over the coming years—for all Australian children—will require a collaborative approach across all levels of government. The Government is committed to working with states and territories to ensure there is a robust and fair system in place that supports Australian children to have the best start in life.

Thank you for bringing the recent NGA resolutions to the Government's attention, and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Hardy'.

David Hardy  
Acting Branch Manager  
Assessment and Early Learning Branch

30 August 2018