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Federal Member for Newcastle



Media Alert

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TAKING THE PRESSURE OFF FAMILIES' CHILDCARE COSTS

Labor's investment in early childhood development and the creation of thousands of additional places will be welcome news to Newcastle families.

In the *Newcastle Childcare Survey* 86% of respondents reported having difficulty in finding childcare and 65% said that the cost of childcare was prohibitive. The survey revealed that Newcastle parents are especially frustrated by long waiting lists for Long Day Care and Family Day Care places, with 75% reporting that they were on waiting lists for both.

A Latham Labor government will introduce a free day of care each week for all 3 and 4 year olds eligible for the childcare benefit, will create thousands of additional Long Day care places and boost assistance to Family Day care and playgroups.

This is good news for the 10,300 families in the Newcastle Federal electorate.

Labor's investment in early childhood development includes:

- A free Day of care for eligible 3 and 4 year olds
- An additional 6,500 Long Day Care places
- An additional 8,000 Out of School Hours places
- Boosted assistance to the states to reduce pre-school fees
- Boosted assistance to Family Day Care and playgroups
- Programs to improve parent literacy and to promote the importance of reading to our infant children

Only Labor understands the pressures that young families are facing. A Latham Labor government will offer generous support to Australian families because investing in our children is an investment in our future.

Newcastle children and families will benefit from Labor's investment in their future.

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