

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Minister for Community Services  
The Hon. Linda Burney MP**



**Saturday, 4 July 2009**

### **TIPS FOR CHOOSING EARLY EDUCATION SERVICES FOR YOUR CHILDREN**

Minister for Community Services Linda Burney today urged parents who want to enroll their children in early education before they start 'big' school, to do so now.

"The start of the new school year may seem far away but places for programs that help children prepare for big school, fill up fast," Ms Burney said.

"Some services may already have waiting lists and July is the perfect time to explore options for your children."

"The social and educational benefits of early childhood education are well known and have a positive long-term impact on children.

"Quality early childhood education helps children cope with the move to primary school, it helps them keep up with their peers and, ultimately, helps them meet or exceed milestones later in life."

Ms Burney offered the following tips to parents when choosing a preschool or childcare service:

- Consider the needs of your child and your family – how accessible is the service to your home and work?
- It is a good idea to visit the services you are interested in
- Check that the service's policies and values are right for your child
- Check the service's educational programs and policies, qualifications and experience of staff, health and safety procedures, fees and management and communication policies.

The NSW Government is rolling out the biggest reform to preschool funding in 20 years.

"The Government's Preschool Investment and Reform Plan (PIRP) will see the creation of 5,250 additional preschool places for 10,500 children across NSW by the end of next year," Ms Burney said.

"Since 2006, the Government has invested an additional \$25.9 million into preschools. From this year, we will commit \$29.8 million extra funding per year to community preschools.

"We recognise that investing in early childhood education and ensuring access to affordable, quality children's services – including community preschool – is one of the best ways to improve life outcomes for our children."

For more information about choosing a preschool or other children's services for your child, visit the Department of Community Services website at [www.community.nsw.gov.au](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au)

**Media contact: Phyllis Sakinofsky 9228 4455 / 0406 164 034**