



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

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RELIEF FOR DROUGHT AFFECTED PRESCHOOLS

Services looking after our state's littlest learners will have some relief during this tough drought period, with the NSW Government announcing a \$3 million package to provide financial support for community preschools in NSW.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian said these 2018 Drought Relief Payments will ensure early childhood education services can continue to operate during the adverse economic conditions associated with the drought period.

"Services can use this funding to assist families and children in a range of ways, including transport arrangements to maintain preschool participation, crisis planning or fee subsidies to further support families," Ms Berejiklian said.

"This year has been one of the driest winters on record, which is why the NSW Government has committed more than \$1 billion to date to help those who are struggling."

Member for Albury, Greg Aplin said these payments will ensure local services can continue to operate during the adverse economic conditions associated with the drought period.

"The Liberals & Nationals know how crucial it is to continue to support families and businesses who are struggling due to the drought," Mr Aplin said.

"Times are tough, but regional people are resilient and we need to keep functioning as normally as possible."

Minister for Early Childhood Education Sarah Mitchell said it is crucial the NSW Government continues to support families to ensure children always have access to top quality early childhood education, no matter where they live or what their circumstances are.

"The Liberals & Nationals understand there are numerous social and economic flow-on affects from the drought, which affect businesses and communities," Ms Mitchell said.

"Our goal is to help alleviate some of the pressure on families by supporting early childhood services where attendance may have dropped due to socioeconomic pressures, and also to boost service operators coping with additional challenges." Funding will be allocated to services based on their enrolment numbers and location, and will be scaled according to the level of drought intensity.

Further information is also available on the Department of Education's website.

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