



**Greg Aplin MP**  
Member for Albury

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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29 January 2019

### **FIRST COHORT OF SUBSIDISED THREE-YEAR-OLDS ATTEND PRESCHOOL ACROSS THE ELECTORATE**

Hundreds of preschools across NSW have opened their doors to the first cohort of subsidised three year olds this week, thanks to a historic investment from the NSW Government to ensure every child has access to two years of quality early childhood education.

Member for Albury, Greg Aplin said for the first time ever preschool subsidies have been extended to include all three and four-year-olds, saving families across the Albury electorate an average of \$825 a year.

“Not only does this investment mean better opportunities for children across our region, it also means parents have more money in their pockets,” Mr Aplin said.

“This is another way the NSW Government is improving the cost-of-living for families right across the State.

“With this historic investment I can see that children will start school better prepared than ever.”

Minister for Early Childhood Education Sarah Mitchell said universal access to two years of preschool education will provide extensive benefits to both children and the community.

“Funding three-year-olds is an issue that has been raised with me a number of times during my time as Minister, so I am proud the NSW Government is listening and delivering,” Ms Mitchell said.

“The benefits of having two years of quality early childhood education includes better performance throughout primary and high school, as well as longer term benefits like better university and TAFE attendance, and better outcomes post-tertiary education.

“In June last year when the Budget was delivered, NSW was the only state in Australia in the financial position to offer three-year-old preschool subsidies, and I am proud that other states have since followed suit and modelled their policy off ours.”

The NSW Government’s Start Strong program was introduced in 2016 and has already seen significant success for children attending preschool for 600 hours in the year before school – a reduction in average daily fees by 25 per cent and an increase in enrolments by 40 per cent.

**Media Contact: Greg Aplin 6021 3042 or 0428 600 343**

