

16 March 2026

CM: 32/26

Dear Parent

**Stand with community preschools: Wear Pink on 18 March
and Join the IEU Day of Action on 6 May**

We want to share an important update on the IEU's Start Strong Pay Fair campaign advocating for proper funding for your child's community-based preschool and fair pay and recognition for the dedicated teachers and educators.

Recently, the Fair Work Commission recommended that the NSW government *"take all necessary action, including reviewing and increasing funding to preschools"* to provide improved pay and conditions.

The Commission noted that: *"Given the significant difference between rates of pay for NSW preschool employees (which are largely award dependent) on the one hand, and the pay rates of teachers in schools, NSW Government preschools, and of employees in many long day care centres on the other, it is difficult to see how NSW preschools can continue to attract and retain the skilled and qualified employees necessary to run their services and programs."*

We need the NSW government to listen to the recommendation. Community preschools are facing difficulties in attracting and retaining passionate and appropriately qualified staff because of the large pay disparity between them and their colleagues in schools. Without additional funding, community preschools may be forced to increase fees (if they have not done so), thereby adding further financial pressures on families.

Please support our campaign for more funding by participating in these key events:

Wear Pink on Wednesday 18 March – dress your children in pink for preschool.

IEU Day of Action on Wednesday 6 May – attend our rally at the top of Martin Place in Sydney. Gather at 9.30am for a 10.00am start. Many preschools will close for all or part of the day so staff can stand together and call for the much-needed funding. *Please come along and show your support.*

Yours sincerely



CAROL MATTHEWS
Secretary