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## Historic ECEC win protected: government funding confirmed to lock in pay rises for ECEC workers

The Federal ALP Government's confirmation of a [further \\$3.6 billion investment](#) over the next two years to secure Early Childhood Education Worker Retention Payments is great news for the ECEC workforce and for the delivery of high-quality early learning.

This commitment locks in the historic 15 per cent pay rise won through the sector's first multi-employer union agreement in 2024 and provides the financial certainty that the sector has been [urgently seeking](#).

Since its commencement in 2024, the multi-employer agreement has expanded to cover 200,000 workers across more than 10,000 providers.

For too long, [poor wages and conditions](#) have driven skilled workers out of early learning. This funding will help deliver sustained change by improving workforce retention, better valuing ECEC workers and addressing staff shortages across the sector.

Importantly, the government investment and union collective agreement underpin the sustainability of a quality ECEC workforce. A stable and fairly paid workforce is essential to delivering the early learning environments Australian children and families deserve.

Our union acknowledges the Federal Government's commitment and recognises the [collective advocacy](#) of unions and workers that made this outcome possible.

The IEU will also continue to work with the government and employers to develop a longer-term model of wage security, reducing the uncertainty caused by the current two-year worker retention funding cycle.

Securing fair pay is not only a win for ECEC workers, but it is a vital step toward a stronger, more sustainable early childhood education system for the Australian community.