



10 August 2026

Renegotiating the ECEC Multi-Employer Agreement

In 2024 the IEU, AEU and UWU successfully negotiated the first MEA covering teachers and educators working in long day care centres around Australia. The MEA included a 10% Commonwealth funded pay increase from 2 December 2024 and a further 5% increase from 1 December 2025. In addition, employees covered by the MEA are entitled to paid release for teachers to mentor early career teachers. Employers were required to maintain any superior pay and conditions for employees that were in place prior to the MEA. The original 63 employers that were covered by the MEA when it was approved has now grown to over 500 employers covering more than 40,000 teachers and educators!

Next steps

The MEA reaches its nominal expiry date on 30 November 2026 and negotiations for a new MEA will commence later this year. Workload pressure in the sector is causing burnout and increasing staff turnover. How much time each week do you need for planning, programming and documenting children's learning and development? Is two hours a week adequate for Educational Leaders to oversee the educational program and mentor other teachers and educators? Does the Director's Allowance reflect the complex legal responsibilities, administrative tasks, skills and qualifications required to run a quality early learning service?

Please share your priorities to inform our log of claims by emailing ECEC@ieu.asn.au or joining a Zoom on Monday 24 August at 6.00pm or Wednesday 2 September at 6.00pm.

Monday August 24, 2026 18:00

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85447712290?pwd=uhTeoYEwroteXtCuKU3z9Ksdr813WT.1>

Meeting ID: 854 4771 2290

Passcode: 992589

Wednesday September 2, 2026 18:00

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87245382049?pwd=rb9lFnmd6Qgpohb16AyP69JTf81M3j.1>

Meeting ID: 872 4538 2049

Passcode: 432328

Your union membership

The Early Childhood Worker Retention Payment (ECWRP) has been extended to 30 June 2028. The IEU continues to advocate for an ongoing government commitment to funded pay increases and we need your help to prevent teachers' pay going backwards in July 2028. Please encourage your non-member colleagues to [Join the IEU](#)

