



Four Year Olds Denied Federal Assistance **Extension to the AIC Allowance**

Accessing affordable early childhood learning:

Extend the Assistance for Isolated Children's (AIC) Distance Education allowance to those taking part in early childhood programs in their transition to school.

The only means of accessing early childhood education for approximately 280 children across remote Australia is through distance education programs. While states and territories have provided such programs, families living in remote areas wishing to access these are bearing the entire costs associated with taking part in them. The costs associated with setting up, maintaining and resourcing a schoolroom for delivering an early childhood program are the same as those encountered in delivering a distance education program for the formal schooling years. The AIC Distance Education allowance must be extended to this cohort in order to make early childhood programs more affordable.

Distance Education for four year old students need to be recognised when undertaking a transition to school program and the AIC scheme extended to them as no other service is available to this group.

Funding required ≈ \$1 million dollars per annum.

Funding this allowance would assist considerably in alleviating and overcoming the challenges families face when educating their children in isolated regions of Australia. Further details about our main lobby areas [here](#).

SUMMING UP RURAL EDUCATION

DO THE MATHS

Election Campaign

June 2016

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