One Nation supports safe, high-quality early learning that gives children a strong foundation, while recognising that parents should have genuine choice in how their children are cared for. We also believe taxpayer funding should be responsible, targeted to genuine need and deliver measurable benefit for children, families and the wider community.

Our responses to your six priorities are below.

1. Ensure all children have access to quality kinder in a setting that suits their families' needs

We support access to quality kindergarten and recognise the important role played by long day care, community kindergarten and other providers in giving families choice.

At a federal level, One Nation's Family Tax Policy proposes allowing couples with dependent children to combine and split their income for tax purposes. The intent is to reduce the financial disadvantage faced by single-income families and give parents greater choice, including making it more financially possible for a parent to remain at home with young children if that is what works best for their family.

That same principle of choice is important when considering childcare and kindergarten funding. Families where parents or carers are working, studying, undertaking training or otherwise genuinely need care should be supported, alongside appropriate provisions for vulnerable children, disability, caring responsibilities and exceptional circumstances.

At the same time, where a parent is available and able to care for their child at home, we do not believe government policy should financially favour formal childcare over a family choosing to provide that care at home.

We therefore support access to quality kindergarten, while believing funding arrangements should be assessed against genuine need, outcomes, affordability and value for taxpayers.

2. Expand funded kinder hours to 30 hours in the year before school by 2036

We support quality kindergarten and initiatives that demonstrably improve children's development and school readiness.

However, we would not automatically commit to 30 funded hours on the assumption that more hours necessarily produce better outcomes. Any expansion should be supported by evidence of developmental benefit, genuine family demand, workforce capacity, affordability and value for taxpayers.

Families and children are different. Parents should retain meaningful choice over the amount and type of formal early learning that best suits their child.

Where existing services have available capacity, that capacity should also be properly considered before additional taxpayer-funded infrastructure is built.

3. Provide additional support for services supporting children who are vulnerable, disadvantaged or have additional needs

We support needs-based assistance for vulnerable and disadvantaged children and children with significant additional needs.

One Nation's Victorian education policy recognises the importance of timely assistance for children who fall behind and additional specialist support for children with significant learning or behavioural needs.

We support the principle of directing additional resources towards genuine disadvantage and additional needs, while ensuring programs are accountable and regularly evaluated to determine whether they are achieving better outcomes for children.

4. Invest to ensure there is a pipeline of qualified educators and teachers across the State

Quality early learning depends on having sufficient qualified and capable educators, particularly in communities experiencing genuine workforce shortages.

We support practical education, training and employment pathways that help develop and retain good educators. One Nation's Victorian education policy also recognises the need to reduce excessive administrative demands on teachers so they can focus on their core role of teaching.

We support working with the sector to identify genuine workforce shortages and practical solutions. Specific measures such as training subsidies, scholarships, relocation assistance or other incentives should be assessed on demonstrated need, effectiveness and value for taxpayers.

Where workforce shortages exist, our first priority should be developing and retaining the skilled workforce we already have and creating pathways for Australians to enter these professions.

5. Provide stewardship ensuring services are built where needed and cost effectively

We strongly support this principle.

Where existing quality providers have unused capacity, government should determine whether that capacity can meet community demand before committing substantial taxpayer funding to building additional facilities.

This is consistent with One Nation's Victorian commitment to disciplined government spending, transparency and accountability around public projects.

New early childhood infrastructure should therefore be based on demonstrated local demand, existing capacity, population need, cost effectiveness and measurable community benefit.

Government should spend taxpayers' money where it is genuinely needed, rather than duplicating services that already have capacity.

6. Work with the sector to ensure Government is effectively supporting affordable, quality and safe early childhood education and care

We support meaningful consultation with the people actually delivering these services, including providers, educators, parents and communities.

One Nation's Victorian policy supports reducing unnecessary regulatory and compliance burdens. However, when it comes to early childhood education and care, there is an overriding consideration: **the safety of children must come first.**

Recent serious cases and allegations of child sexual abuse within childcare settings have understandably caused significant concern among parents and the broader community.

We support rigorous screening, appropriate supervision, effective reporting, enforceable child-safety standards and decisive action when concerns arise.

Reducing red tape should never mean reducing genuine safeguards for children. Regulation that demonstrably protects children should remain. Conversely, requirements that create significant administrative burden without improving child safety, quality or educational outcomes should be reviewed.

Government should work with the sector to distinguish between regulation that genuinely protects children and unnecessary administration that takes educators away from caring for and educating them.

Ultimately, our approach is based on some straightforward principles: children must be safe; parents should have genuine choice; vulnerable children and families should receive support where it is genuinely needed; existing services should be used effectively before taxpayers fund unnecessary duplication; and government spending should deliver measurable outcomes and value for the community.

Thank you again for inviting One Nation Victoria to contribute to this important discussion.

Kind regards,

Elita Dabrowski





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