

 South



Australia

(TO WIT)

HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE FRANCES JENNIFER ADAMSON, Companion
in the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the State of South Australia:

TO

THE HONOURABLE JULIA EILEEN GILLARD AC

Greeting:

RECOGNISING that research on early childhood education makes it clear how crucial the years before school are to the rest of a child's life.

AND that around 90 per cent of adult brain development and growth occurs in the first five years of life.

AND that nearly a quarter of South Australian children are behind on at least one domain, and 13 per cent are behind on at least two domains on the Australian Early Development Census.

AND that there is a strong link between the socio-economic status of a family and the developmental vulnerability of children when they start school.

AND that 15 per cent of Australian three-year-olds attend preschool, in comparison to an OECD average of nearly 70 per cent.

AND that the school day length is out of step with modern working families.

AND that Out of School Hours services are not universally available, accessible or convenient.

I, the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council and under the *Royal Commissions Act 1917*, DO HEREBY APPOINT YOU to be a Commissioner and require and authorise you to inquire into:

- (a) The extent to which South Australian families are supported in the first 1000 days of a child's life, focussed on opportunities to further leverage early childhood education and care to enable equitable and improved outcomes for South Australian children;
- (b) How universal quality preschool programs for three and four year olds can be delivered in South Australia, including addressing considerations of accessibility, affordability, quality and how to achieve universality for both age cohorts. Consideration of universal three-year old preschool should be undertaken with a view to achieving this commencing in 2026;
- (c) How all families can have access to out of school hours care at both preschool and primary school ages, including considerations of accessibility in all parts of the state, affordability and quality in public and private settings.

AND I direct you to make any recommendations arising out of your inquiry that you consider appropriate, including recommendations about any policy, legislative, administrative or structural reforms.

AND, without limiting the scope of your inquiry or the scope of any recommendations arising out of your inquiry that you may consider appropriate, I direct you, for the purposes of your inquiry and recommendations, to have regard to the following matters:

- (d) The benefits of increasing workforce participation by parents through improved access to childcare, early childhood education, out of school hours care and more flexible school day lengths;
- (e) The importance of workforce capacity and sustaining the ongoing viability and affordability of non-government early education and care services;
- (f) The variable provision of services across rural, regional, and remote South Australia;
- (g) The views and experiences of:
 - i. Parents and caregivers from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds with lived experience of the early years system, including both universal services and services targeted at families with complex needs;

- ii. Experts in early childhood development;
 - iii. Service providers in the first 1000 days;
 - iv. Leaders in preschool and long day care services in the public, private, and community sectors;
 - v. Unions representing working in early childhood education and care;
- (h) Consideration of the costs and benefits of implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission, including not just economic benefits but benefits to children, their families and communities, and the social fabric of South Australia.

AND I:

1. Require you to begin your inquiry as soon as practicable.
2. Require you to make your inquiry as expeditiously as possible.
3. Require you to submit your final report by 31 August 2023. The provision of interim reports is at the discretion of the Commissioner.

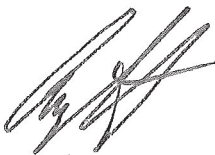
GIVEN under my hand and the Public Seal of South Australia, at Adelaide this 16th day of October 2022.

By command,



Premier

Recorded in Register of Commissions,
Letters Patent, Etc., Vol. XXIX



Clerk of Executive Council

GOD SAVE THE KING!