

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION — WA PLAY STRATEGY

1317. Hon DONNA FARAGHER to the minister representing the Minister for Early Childhood Education:

I refer to the WAtoday article titled “Less work, more play: The change WA’s youngest students need to thrive in school”, dated 11 September 2023, and the statement —

New Early Childhood Minister Sabine Winton told the Early Childhood Australia WA state conference at the start of the month she was committed to advocating for play in schools and for a government-led WA Play Strategy.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that a government-led WA play strategy will be developed; and, if not, why not?
- (2) If yes to (1), what is the time frame for the development of the strategy?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following response has been provided by the Minister for Early Childhood Education.

- (1)–(2) The minister continues to meet with stakeholders within the early childhood sector on matters of play in early childhood. The importance of intentional and purposeful play for children’s learning and development is outlined in *The early years learning framework for Australia*, the National Quality Standard and the School Curriculum and Standards Authority’s revised 2023 *Kindergarten curriculum guidelines*.