1. Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) includes all care and education arrangements for children under compulsory school age and includes playgroups, child care centres, kindergartens and family day care schemes. A reform agenda that targets access, affordability and quality of ECEC is an effective pathway to improved productivity, participation and social inclusion.
2. The Queensland Government investment in ECEC combined with a small number of private sector programs enables 29% of 3½ to 4½ year old children in Queensland to participate in teacher-delivered early education programs (kindy). The Queensland Government is working with the Commonwealth through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to improve early childhood development outcomes nationally. The Commonwealth proposes universal access to fifteen hours a week of early education programs delivered by a qualified teacher in the year prior to school and to establish up to 260 childcare centres on school, TAFE or university sites and community land.
3. Cabinet approved access to early learning for 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 year olds in Queensland.
4. Cabinet approved the establishment of a new *Office of Early Childhood Education and Care* within the Department of Education, Training and the Arts portfolio, to be tasked with responsibility for implementing Queensland’s ECEC agenda and ongoing management and coordination of the ECEC agenda.
5. *Attachments*
* Nil.