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## **Media release** for immediate distribution

### **Kindergarten funding scheme available in Queensland**

Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families can access low or no cost kindergarten programs for Semester 2 this year.

The Creche and Kindergarten Association (C&K) CEO Michael Tizard reminded families that the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme (QKFS) Plus Kindy Support was available.

“This scheme provides low or no cost kindergarten for families with a Health Care Card, children or families who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, or families with multiple births (triplets, quadruplets, etc),” he said.

“Children who turned four before June 30 this year are eligible to receive this funding to attend kindergarten in 2014.”

“It’s important that every child can access a kindergarten program. At kindergarten children learn through play and start to build those important skills that will help them get the best start in life.”

“Kindergarten also helps to prepare children for school with research showing that children who attended a year of pre-primary education performed better at school than those who did not.”

Mr Tizard said the Queensland Government funded QKFS Plus Kindy Support was introduced at the start of this year.

“This is a fantastic scheme that aims to improve participation in kindergarten, however, many families are unaware this is available to them,” he said.

“Families and children can receive this support through a stand-alone kindergarten service or a long day service with an approved kindergarten program. Just look for the kindy tick.”

C&K is Queensland’s largest provider of early childhood education and care with almost 400 kindergarten, long day care and family day care services.

To find a C&K service near you visit [www.candk.asn.au](http://www.candk.asn.au) or call 1800 177 092.

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**To arrange a photo at a C&K service near you or for more information contact:**

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