1. In 2007, in response to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Reform Agenda, the Government committed to a review of the Department of Education Community Kindergarten Assistance Scheme (DECKAS). The review, undertaken by external consultants, incorporated research and analysis, thorough consultation and the development of future options.
2. The review identified that Government investment in the community kindergarten sector delivers high quality services due to the DECKAS policy requiring: university qualified early childhood teachers; quality curriculum; and professional development provided by DECKAS-funded early childhood consultants. It also indicated that, while DECKAS has delivered positive outcomes, challenges remain including the limited capacity of the current model to direct investment to areas of disadvantage.
3. The report arising from the DECKAS review recommended a range of possible options for future governance, funding and operational arrangements. These options need to be considered in light of the State Government’s strategy for achieving universal access to a kindergarten program including the establishment of an additional 240 kindergarten services across the State by 2014.
4. Current DECKAS funding guidelines will continue to apply to existing community kindergartens throughout 2009 with more information to be made available on future arrangements by mid 2009.
5. Cabinet noted the report and recommendations arising from the DECKAS review, and that the report will be published on the Department of Employment, Training and the Arts website.
6. *Attachments*
* [Review of Department of Education Community Kindergarten Assistance Scheme (DECKAS): Final Report](Attachments/deckas-final-report.pdf)