Fatima Payman
Senator for Western Australia

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Albanese government breaks promise on regional ECEC funding

The Labor Government has confirmed it will not honour its commitment to build an Early Childhood Education Care facility (ECEC) in Mukinbudin, in Western Australia's wheatbelt, despite promising its construction in the lead up to the 2025 election.

In a post on Instagram, failed candidate for Durack Karen Wheatland, said a re-elected Albanese Government would invest $5 million into an ECEC centre to be built in the town, but yesterday the Government confirmed to the local Shire that the project would not go ahead.

Independent Senator for Western Australia Fatima Payman has been asking the Government for a status update on the election promise since February, after first raising the issue in Senate Estimates.

Senator Payman then submitted a Freedom of Information (FOI) request in an attempt to understand whether or not the project would go ahead. Only four documents out of the 39 available were provided under FOI. Yesterday, the Shire of Mukinbudin was told that the government would not honour the commitment due to a 'lack of demonstrated demand'.

Senator Payman said the Labor Government's claims to support Australians outside of East Coast capital cities could not be backed up by evidence.

"The Labor Government talks a big talk on early childhood education and care but is not only allowing private centres to fail left-right-and-centre, it is not even honouring its commitments to build centres it promised," Senator Payman said.

"While we are seeing $6 million funnelled into a golf course in inner Sydney, in the Prime Minister's seat, the working families in Western Australia's wheatbelt are being short changed.

"I know people in Western Australia's regions are used to going without but the bare minimum this Government could do is actually honour the miniscule election commitments it has made."

On Wednesday, Senator Payman successfully moved a motion in the Senate for the order of the production of documents to uncover more information that was not released through FOI.

"It feels a bit futile, but once those documents are released, it can hopefully shed some light on the Government's rationale to backtrack on its promises," she said.

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