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MEDIA RELEASE

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DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN PAY THE PRICE OF A BUDGET DISASTER

Marian Wright Edelman said, "If we don't stand up for children, then we don't stand for much." So who will stand up for the children who are now to bear the brunt of another brutal budget cut?

Last week the Federal Office of Department of Social Services advised funding to all Adventure Playgrounds will be terminated on 30 June 2014 as a direct Government response to the budget.

This is clearly an extremely disappointing outcome after 40 years of bipartisan support for Adventure Playgrounds. But more importantly it is an extremely disappointing outcome for the children that Adventure Playgrounds support.

Barbara Champion, Executive Director, Play Australia responded with great distress to this announcement. "These playgrounds are here to engage with children from disadvantaged families. This type of outdoor play experience encourages positive behaviours and participation in the community.

"Why is it that the most disadvantaged, marginalised and at risk children, like those that are supported through the Adventure Playground programs, are made to suffer at the hands of those who make these budget decisions. We can find millions of dollars for roads, war planes and infrastructure, but not for children who need a safe and secure place to play?

"This action is a complete contradiction of the United Nations Article 31 on the Child's Right to Play. In 2013 the UN released a General Comment requiring greater attention by signatory governments, which include Australia, to support the Child's Right to Play for all children.

"So our Federal Government has a responsibility to fulfil its obligations under Article 31 and a good way to start would be to rescind this budget cut to Adventure Playgrounds," said Ms Champion.

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For media comment and interview contact Karen Williams, Play Australia Media Officer on 0407 701 171.