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Friday, 18 November 2011

## **PREMIER PAYS TRIBUTE TO DR FRASER MUSTARD**

Premier Jay Weatherill today said he was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Dr Fraser Mustard, the world-leading expert on early childhood development and former South Australian Thinker in Residence.

Mr Weatherill has paid tribute to the important work undertaken by Dr Mustard, who passed away in Toronto, Canada, aged 84.

“Dr Mustard’s work in the area of early childhood development has changed the way people think about the way young children learn,” Mr Weatherill said.

“His studies taught us the importance of the children’s early years as part of our broader social policy.”

Dr Mustard was a Thinker in Residence in South Australia in 2006-07. His perspectives were instrumental in developing of our world leading Children’s Centres for Early Childhood Development and Parenting, the development of the Australian Early Development Index and in creating the structure of the new Department for Education and Child Development.

Education and Child Development Minister Grace Portolesi said Dr Mustard’s influence on policy in this state would be felt for generations.

“Dr Mustard showed the world how important it is to invest early in the lives of children and we were incredibly lucky to have him here in South Australia,” Ms Portolesi said.

“The new Department for Education and Child Development really builds on a number of Dr Mustard’s ideas about supporting young children and their families from the moment children are born. Dr Mustard was a passionate advocate who inspired many people around the world, including during his time here in this State.”

Mr Weatherill said Dr Mustard’s interest in South Australia continued well after the completion of his time as a Thinker in Residence.

“I was able to speak to Dr Mustard about a week ago and I explained the reforms we are undertaking in SA. He was very pleased to hear about this work.

“Dr Mustard was a true friend to our State and will be sadly missed.”