

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate Release

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CCS EVALUATION REPORT SHEDS LIGHT ON EFFECTS OF CCS ON AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES

The Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) continues to call for a revision of the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) parameters so that **all families** qualify for 18 hours per week of subsidised access to early learning services.

Following the recent release of an [evaluation report](#) commissioned by the Department of Education (DoE), ACA, Australia's peak body for private long day early learning services, says the report confirms that approximately one third of families are better off financially under the new system.

"ACA acknowledges that a significant number of working families are better off as a result of the implementation of the CCS." Vice President Nesha Hutchinson said'

"This is a wonderful outcome and we applaud the government for their dedication to the early learning sector, and positive outcomes for Australian families."

However the report indicates that while the CCS has had a positive impact on some families, it has had a negative impact on others, with many families are experiencing higher costs.

"ACA is concerned about those families experiencing higher costs, along with those that the CCS does not support." Ms Hutchinson said. "The report indicates a higher rate of increased costs in regional and rural areas along with outer metropolitan areas, where low-income families live. We're particularly concerned that vulnerable and disadvantaged families may struggle to afford early learning services."

Children who enjoy quality early learning services are likely to be well socialised, confident, inquisitive about the world, accepting of diversity, resilient to manage challenges and also to be life-long learners.

"ACA believes that every child in Australia should have access to high quality, affordable and sustainable early learning services, including our most vulnerable and disadvantaged children." Ms Hutchinson explained.

ACA would like to see by **all families** given access to 18 hours a week of subsidised high quality, affordable early learning services.

"We believe the cost to government for extending this subsidy to all at the base level would be relatively small, and it is likely that the savings from reducing the red tape and government administration of the activity test would offset this new cost." Ms Hutchinson said.

ACA believes that with the right policy and financial frameworks in place, Australia could be a world leader in the delivery of high quality ECEC within 10 years.

Australian Childcare Alliance

A Suite 6, 539 Highett Road, Highett VIC 3190 P 03 9532 2017

President Paul Mondo (VIC) 0411 587 170 President@childcarealliance.org.au

Vice President Nesha Hutchinson (WA) 0412 085 068 Nesha.Hutchinson@childcarealliance.org.au

State Presidents

QLD/ACT	Majella Fitzsimmons	0410 526 136
NSW	Lyn Connolly	0425 225 275
VIC	Paul Mondo	0411 587 170
WA	Ann Chemello	0408 935 703
SA	Kerry Mahony	0419 819 754

“We welcome the opportunity to engage with the government and all sides of politics, with a view to ensuring that every child in Australia has access to high quality, affordable and sustainable early learning services, and therefore the best start in life.” Ms Hutchinson concluded.

ENDS

Media enquiries: Nesha Hutchinson 0412 085 068

BACKGROUND

As the national peak body in the Australian Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector, the Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) represents more than 2,500 members and approximately 360,000 families throughout Australia.

We work on behalf of long day care service owners and operators, predominantly private, to ensure families have an opportunity to access affordable, quality ECEC throughout Australia.

The ACA has existed in various forms for more than 30 years and has extensive experience in the fields of early childhood, education, training and management. Our experience means that we understand the critical role a quality ECEC program plays in the life of families and the importance of a viable long day care sector in preparing children for the best start in life and learning.

The ACA’s national and state bodies work collaboratively with all levels of government, regulatory bodies and other stakeholders to ensure that families are supported into the future with a sustainable, affordable and viable sector, with a focus on the best interests of Australia’s young children.

ACA’s policy paper *Let’s Give Our Children The Best Start In Life* is available at www.BestStartInLife.org.au.

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