

MEDIA RELEASE

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Senate inquiry report endorses urgent need for quality childcare

Early Childhood Australia (ECA), the national independent advocate for young children, welcomed the report from the Senate Inquiry into the Provision of Childcare as an endorsement of the need for quality child care.

The report, tabled last night in Parliament, argues that the collapse of ABC Learning could have been prevented if policy makers and governments had taken more account of the need for quality.

Pam Cahir, CEO of Early Childhood Australia, said the report paved the way for COAG to vote in favour of urgent reforms to improve the quality of early childhood education and care at their meeting in Brisbane on 7 December:

‘The Senate report shows that quality should be the number one priority for all levels of Government when it comes to childcare.

‘Improving conditions for our children’s care and education now rides on the COAG decision. By introducing improved child ratios and staff qualifications we can put in place the building blocks for quality early childhood education and care.’

A recent survey by ECA found that 84 per cent of people consider that improving the quality of early childhood education and care should be a priority for the Federal Government.

‘We have the endorsement of the public and now the Senate Inquiry. It’s time for COAG to put up their hands and support the quality reform agenda.’ Pam Cahir said.

ECA has launched a national campaign with the support of parents and childcare operators to press State and Territory leaders to support the quality reform agenda and will be lobbying Ministerial Offices in Queensland and Western Australia this week.

For more information or media comment, please call Early Childhood Australia on (02) 6242 1800.