

Join Early Childhood Australia in calling for quality improvements for children!

All children deserve the best start in life – including places and relationships where they can be safe and happy, with opportunities to reach their health, learning and social development potential. This is important for children, families and the future of our nation. For many, Early Childhood Education and Care services have a major role to play. The need for quality improvement in these services is widely acknowledged, including by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) – see the Regulation Impact Statement at www.coag.gov.au

It's time to act – at its meeting on 7 December 2009, COAG will decide the future for quality in Australia's Early Childhood Education and Care services. They need to hear what you think about this – now!

Write or email your Premier or Chief Minister and tell them to stand firm, put their hands up high for quality for our children and make a national commitment for:

- improved regulated staff-to-child ratios of 1:3 for babies up to two years, 1:5 for two to three-year-olds, 1:10 for three to five-year-olds in centres
- all services to have well-trained and qualified staff including degree-qualified early childhood teachers
- a quality rating system ('accreditation') that requires these standards in ratios and qualifications and high standards in practice as well.

It can be done! For children, we need COAG to:

- commit to high quality up front
- make a staged plan for gradual improvement so that services can get there over time, and
- be open about addressing cost increases. Quality improvement is needed for our children, it costs money, and must be paid for. Governments need to bear some of this cost increase, and parents will bear some. Governments also need to make sure that low income families can afford high quality services.

Urge your Premier or Chief Minister to stand firm and commit to quality.

See below for email addresses:

NSW

Hon. Nathan Rees
Email: thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au

QLD

Hon. Anna Bligh
Email: premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

SA

Hon. Mike Rann
Email: premier@saugov.sa.gov.au

TAS

Hon. David Bartlett
Email: premier@dpc.tas.gov.au

VIC

Hon. John Brumby
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WA

Hon. Colin Barnett
Email: wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au

ACT

Hon. Jon Stanhope
Email: stanhope@act.gov.au

NT

Hon. Paul Raymond Henderson
Email: chief.minister@nt.gov.au

Also please copy us in at handsupforquality@earlychildhood.org.au and keep in touch at www.earlychildhood.org.au/handsupforquality.html



Hands Up for Quality

Campaigning for better early childhood education and care

