



**Early Childhood  
Australia**  
A voice for young children

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

Monday 16 January 2012

### **PAM CAHIR TO STEP DOWN AS CEO OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA**

After more than 20 years as the CEO of Australia's largest organisation advocating for young children, Pam Cahir has today announced she will retire in July 2012.

Ms Cahir has been a strong advocate for quality, social justice and equity in all issues relating to young children and has ensured children have a voice on issues of national importance.

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) has begun the search for a new CEO to lead the organisation, which has been at the forefront of the reforms to early childhood education and care during the last three years.

ECA President Margaret Young said Ms Cahir would be greatly missed.

"Pam's tireless advocacy for children's wellbeing has had a major impact in Australia's early childhood education and care sector and beyond, and includes her long term work for quality improvement in early childhood education and care settings.

"Pam has always acted from the principles of children's rights. Over the years she has inspired many people with the breadth and clarity of her vision and ideas, her unflagging enthusiasm, energy and commitment, and her great ability to find ways to work towards achieving goals for young children.

"We are very fortunate to have been able to work with Pam for so long on so many important issues," said Ms Young.

Ms Cahir thanked ECA for giving her the opportunity to play such an important role.

"Working for Early Childhood Australia has been a privilege," said Ms Cahir.

"I have worked with outstanding early childhood professionals and have learnt a great deal from them. What has stood out has been their commitment to children. That commitment, often given over a lifetime, is and will continue to be ECA's strength."

Ms Young said there would be a further announcement in the coming months as to the appointment of a new CEO.

#### **For more information contact:**

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