



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

**OUR
VISION:
EVERY
YOUNG
CHILD IS
THRIVING
AND
LEARNING**

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday October 22, 2018

After the Apology - ensuring all children are safe everywhere

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) welcomes Prime Minister Scott Morrison's Apology today to the Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse, and recognises the work of the Commissioners who conducted this important Inquiry.

'ECA believes it is of utmost importance to recognise the rights of children to be safe and free of harm,' said ECA CEO Samantha Page.

'Whether children are attending education, participating in sport or are receiving care in environments outside the family home, as a society we need to be confident that those who care for children put their best interests first.'

'That is why ECA is a staunch supporter of the [National Principles of Child-Safe Organisations](#), now overseen by the [National office for Child Safety](#).'

ECA also actively promotes organisations that work with children implement the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), and developed the [ECA Code of Ethics](#) based on those rights, for early childhood professionals to consult and follow.

'What the victims and survivors have suffered at the hands of people who were charged with their protection is horrific and we want to ensure that there is no hiding place or protection for such abuses in children's services today,' said Ms Page.

'The millions of young children in Australia today deserve the highest quality care which is not only safe but supports them to thrive. ECA is committed to building a culture of protection in Australia and concur with Children's Commissioner Megan Mitchell in the vision for "every child to feel safe – everyday, everywhere".'

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[View](#) the ***UN Convention on the Rights of the Child***

[Download](#) the ***ECA Code of Ethics***

[Download](#) ***CRC25:Progress Report on 25 years of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child in Australia***

Early Childhood Australia is the peak advocacy body for children from birth to eight years, their families and early childhood professionals.