



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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VISION:
EVERY
YOUNG
CHILD IS
THRIVING
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LEARNING**

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 23 August 2021

EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA WELCOMES TARGETED ASSISTANCE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) welcomes today's announcement by the federal government to provide targeted assistance to early childhood education and care (ECEC) services affected by extended COVID-19 lockdowns.

ECA CEO Samantha Page said that the decision to provide this assistance is a 'welcome lifeline for services and will enable them to keep operating at this critical time. ECA is hopeful that this funding will help ECEC settings provide more clarity to their employed staff and to the families who use their services.

Lockdowns are a stressful time for everyone. Services and families need reassurance and a simpler system. ECEC services have been at the frontline throughout the pandemic and deserve more than ad hoc decisions.

Ultimately, we need a new approach to funding quality early childhood education and care. We need a system, like the school system, that is less fragile and based on children's rights, that provides clarity and affordability to families and also provides secure employment to educators and teachers at professional wages.'

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ECA CEO Samantha Page is available for comment. For interviews, contact ECA Media Manager: Lisa Wylde on 0475 554 999.

A PDF version of this media release can be downloaded from: www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/media

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