



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

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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

5 July 2022

### **ECA WELCOMES MOVE TO AUTOMATE SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES AND SERVICES DURING EMERGENCIES**

Early Childhood Australia (ECA), the nation's peak advocacy organisation for young children and early childhood services, welcomes the federal government's initiative to streamline support for families and early learning services during emergencies.

Ensuring that emergency support measures are available as soon as they are needed provides practical assistance to families with young children and supports the stability of services. These measures are particularly important given the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters. 'This will assist services to respond to and communicate with families early, during difficult times', said Samantha Page, CEO of ECA.

'ECA urges the federal government to also consider emergency payments to services to secure stable employment and wages for early childhood education teams. Waiving gap fees is good for families but can leave services with substantially reduced revenue, making it difficult to retain staff and continue paying wages. The last thing educators and teachers need is to lose hours and income while they are trying to support children and families impacted by a disaster', said Ms Page.

'While investment in immediate challenges is critical, it needs to be coupled with initiatives aimed at supporting recovery and strengthening the mental health and wellbeing of children and their families who are experiencing unprecedented disruption', added Ms Page.

Early Childhood Australia advocates for a strong universal platform of early childhood education and care to support all children now and into the future.

## **ENDS**

ECA CEO Sam Page is available for comment. For interviews, contact ECA Media Officer Reshma Jayesh on 0475 554 999.

For a downloadable PDF version of the media release, click here:  
[www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/media/](http://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.