



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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VISION:
EVERY
YOUNG
CHILD IS
THRIVING
AND
LEARNING**

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 7 September 2022

THE SECTOR NEEDS IMMEDIATE SUPPORT TO STABILISE SO WE CAN AVOID FURTHER DAYS OF ACTION

Early Childhood Australia (ECA), the nation's peak advocacy organisation for young children and early childhood professionals, supports the early childhood education and care workforce shutdown and calls for immediate action from the government to stabilise the sector.

Speaking on the issue, Ms Samantha Page, CEO of ECA, said: 'The early childhood education and care sector is under immense pressure. We know that families cannot afford to pay anymore, which is why services have been finding it difficult to increase wages. We need urgent action from the government to improve wages and acknowledge the value that we place on educators.'

'A wage subsidy model similar to JobKeeper would be a way to increase wages immediately. We need a retention payment that goes from the government to the employers who would directly pass it on to educators and teachers. Safeguards such as acquitting funds through payroll systems could be implemented to ensure that payments cannot be used for any purpose other than wages.'

'A stable workforce is critically important for getting the best outcomes for children's development and wellbeing.'

ECA is concerned about the pressure that the sector is facing, with more than 6,000 positions vacant and more than 30% turnover rate. These problems need to be addressed urgently. It is critical for Australia to have a strong, well-supported and professionally paid workforce that thrives at work so that children and families can do the same.

ENDS

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

For a downloadable PDF version of the media release, please click here:
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.