



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

Friday, 14 July 2023

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON MISGUIDED CLAIMS ABOUT EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE AND THE VALUE OF QUALIFIED EDUCATORS

Recent claims in the Australian Financial Review by Aaron Patrick have raised unfounded concerns over the need for professional qualifications in the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector. This commentary, suggesting childcare staff need fewer degrees, is both ill-informed and misleading.

Ms Samantha Page, CEO Early Childhood Australia, has provided a response to the article (published [here](#)) to address some of the claims made in the article.

Ms Page notes “The ECEC sector is demanding and challenging, requiring well-trained professionals to ensure safe and nurturing environments for children. To consider an unskilled workforce as a solution not only neglects the importance of providing rich learning experiences but also risks exacerbating workforce issues, including turnover and stress levels.

Contrary to Patrick’s assertion, investing in skilled educators is not an inflated cost but a vital commitment to quality services and reasonable workloads. Children’s brains develop rapidly in the first five years of life, necessitating highly skilled educators to guide and foster this learning through exploration, inquiry, and problem-solving.”

Ms Page’s response addresses the limitations of the article and calls for a more sophisticated conversation in relation to what we, as a nation, want for children. The ECEC sector should be seen as critical social infrastructure delivered by education professionals, and the focus should be on genuine solutions for affordability and access.

Read the full response here: [Setting the record straight on misguided claims about ECEC and the value of qualified educators - The Spoke – Early Childhood Australia's Blog](#)

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

For a downloadable PDF version of the media release, 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.