



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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VISION:
EVERY
YOUNG
CHILD IS
THRIVING
AND
LEARNING**

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 3 October 2023

ACCC CHILDCARE INQUIRY FINDINGS EMPHASISE THE VITAL ROLE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

ECA welcomes the findings and recommendations from the ACCC Childcare Inquiry's interim report, which has captured some of the key issues and strengths of the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector and highlighted the importance of ECEC as vital for children and families.

Samantha Page, ECA CEO said "We've long championed Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) as a fundamental social infrastructure that should be accessible to every child and family, regardless of their location or circumstances. This report validates that framing, recognising that while there is room for different models, there is no reason children and families should miss out.

The report further recognises the importance of stability and proper remuneration of the workforce and their critical role in driving quality, ensuring the best outcomes for our children and instilling confidence in families" Ms Page added.

The workforce was described as a critical input for quality, while labour was identified as the highest cost driver for the ECEC sector (followed by land costs). The report noted that the not-for-profit sector invest more in its workforce, quality, and inclusion.

The report also identifies the limitations of relying solely on market forces noting the unique factors that impact ECEC supply and demand and ways that the subsidy system has not delivered downward pressure on prices nor increased equitable access for families.

These findings provide great insight into the state of the sector for families and provide critical input into broader sector reforms being progressed by government. We urge the government to think big when taking up the call to restate its objectives for ECEC and see the ongoing Productivity Commission Inquiry and Early Years Strategy development as significant opportunities to propel this thinking.

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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.