



## Unemployment in Queensland? Is Childcare the answer?

Brisbane. The early learning (childcare) sector is now well recognised by both the Queensland Government and society as being the bedrock of the economy, supporting workforce participation by providing families with the confidence in knowing that their children's wellbeing is supported in a safe learning environment.

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, the economic impact is being widely felt with our first recession in many years and high unemployment. However, the Queensland early learning (childcare) sector is desperately attempting to employ more people.

In a recent survey conducted by Queensland's peak body for the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector, the Australian Childcare Alliance Queensland (ACA Qld) received a record response in a short period of time. It was confirmed that:

- Over 50% of respondents are recruiting for Early Childhood Teachers (ECTs), Diploma qualified and Certificate III qualified early childhood educators for immediate start. This may result in a thousand jobs!
- Most of the sector (approximately 90%) are finding it difficult to recruit staff
- Early Childhood Teachers (ECTs) holding a university degree are the most sought-after qualification, closely followed by Diploma and then Certificate III qualified early childhood educators

Service providers are unsuccessfully utilising all existing channels in an attempt to recruit new staff including word of mouth, SEEK, social media, websites and recruitment agencies. ACA Qld are requesting both sides of Government to have a bipartisan approach in solving this issue to get more people back to work and our economy moving again.

In the lead up to the Queensland State election, ACA Qld developed a raft of common-sense policy recommendations. These have been fully endorsed by the Queensland Greens but, surprisingly, are yet to be weighed in on by both the major parties. These policy recommendations look beyond the current COVID-19 crisis, to build a stronger future for families, the communities in which they live and the economy of the state.

'What Queensland parents want. What our children need' election policy manifesto can be downloaded [here](#).

ACA Qld has been meeting with MPs from all sides of politics. [link here](#)

ACA Qld leadership are available today for an interview

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|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
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### About

*ACA Qld is the peak body for early learning (childcare) services representing over 880 early learning services, who employ 14,000 educators, who educate and care for around 185,000 children of over 250,000 parents in Queensland.*

### Australian Childcare Alliance Queensland

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