



Australian Childcare Alliance Queensland

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‘What Queensland parents want. What our children need’ Policies that provide access to affordable childcare may decide who will be the next Queensland Premier

If the Queensland state election ends in a cliff-hanger, early learning (childcare) policies may help decide who will be the next Premier.

The Queensland Greens and Independent MPs have expressed support for crucial policy recommendations that prioritises the needs of 300,000 Queensland children and the early childhood educators who care and educate them.

The Australian Childcare Alliance Queensland (ACA Qld) presented all parties with its non-partisan, financially sensible election policy manifesto **“What Queensland parents want. What our children need”**.

If adopted, these cost effective policy recommendations will:

- empower parents to choose the quality early learning (childcare) service that meets the needs of their family;
- prioritise the early learning needs of Queensland children;
- reverse the trend of Queensland having the most developmentally vulnerable children in all of Australia¹;
- offer certainty of employment for early childhood educators/teachers, particularly in regional Queensland;
- avert unnecessary increases in costs for parents or force them to withdraw their child from their quality early learning service;
- create more financial headroom to allow early learning (childcare) services to employ more educators, improve pay and conditions; and
- place the needs of parents ahead of the profits of property developers.

“Working parents vote,” Ms Fitzsimmons said. “We know that if the election result ends with a minority government, families will expect access to affordable childcare, supported by a viable Early Childhood Education and Care sector, will be on the negotiation table.”

Ms Fitzsimmons said early learning services had proved the bedrock of the Queensland economy, particularly during the height of this shocking health now economic pandemic.

“Our member services have successfully kept all the children in their care, safe and calm, whilst they continue to learn and develop,” Ms Fitzsimmons said. “With a third of our parents working in healthcare and emergency services, we ensured our early learning (childcare) services remained open, even during the initial lockdown.”

However, Ms Fitzsimmons said families now expect the next government to implement policies that will protect Queensland children from falling through the cracks while keeping the sector sustainable.

“On behalf of all of Queensland families, we have developed policies that look beyond the current COVID-19 crisis, to build a stronger future for our children, their parents, the communities in which they live, the workforce and the economy of the state.” ENDS

‘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](#)

The leadership of ACA Qld are available for media interviews.

President:	Ms Majella Fitzsimmons	0410 526 136	Townsville-based
Vice President:	Mr Jae Fraser	0408 873 492	Gold Coast-based
CEO:	Mr Brent Stokes	0408 339 220	Brisbane-based

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.

¹ Queensland ECEC programs facts and figures Nov 2019