

## MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### **ACA supports new policy approach: Women and their families now a whole-of-government priority**

Australia's peak body for early learning (childcare) services congratulates the Prime Minister on his new look Cabinet, with five promoted women Ministers and resolution to embed women's issues into all areas of government policy making.

As a sector that prioritises the economic and social wellbeing of women and their families, the President of the Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA), Mr Paul Mondo said he was looking forward to working with Prime Minister Morrison and key Ministers to ensure affordable early learning (childcare) was front and centre of next Federal Budget and beyond.

"The early learning sector 's workforce of 194,000 educators and support staff is made up primarily of women," Mr Mondo said. "Our educators, in turn, help Australian mothers to return to the workforce, safe in the knowledge their child is being nurtured and educated in world class early learning (child care) services."

"Improving affordability of care for families and resolving the existing workforce shortages in the early learning sector can deliver clear, early and tangible benefits to Australian women, their families and the national economy.

Mr Mondo welcomed the new roles of the Minister for Economic Security, the Minister for Women's Safety, and the Minister Assisting the Minister for Women along with the Prime Minister- co chaired Cabinet Taskforce to address key issues affecting women from equality and safety to their health and wellbeing.

"Our members strive every day to create the supportive and safe environment needed to foster healthy child development and powerful learning opportunities to shape the minds of the next generation," Mr Mondo said. "This is even more critical for young children who are already experiencing, or at-risk of experiencing, family violence."

"We know this fundamental and seismic shift in policy and pledged approach to women can bring about practical, meaningful and **real** differences for women, their families and the communities in which they live."

"We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Australian Government on improving access to high quality, affordable and safe early learning (child care) services, especially for women and their families that may be struggling and those who need our support." ENDS

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#### **About the Australian Childcare Alliance**

The Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) works on behalf of early learning (long day care) service owners and operators to ensure families have an opportunity to access affordable early childhood education and care (ECEC) throughout Australia.

Our national and state bodies work collaboratively with all levels of government, regulatory authorities and other stakeholders with an evidence-based approach, to ensure that families are supported into the future with a sustainable, affordable and viable ECEC sector.

ACA believes that with the right policy and financial frameworks in place, we could ensure that **every child in Australia** has access to high quality, affordable and sustainable early learning (childcare) services, and therefore the **best start in life**.

#### **Australian Childcare Alliance**

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