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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Working together to prioritise families with young children - ACA congratulates Prime Minister Albanese

Australia's peak body for private long day early learning services, the Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) extends its congratulations to the Hon Anthony Albanese MP on becoming the 31<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister.

"This election underscored that **accessibility** and **affordability** of early learning (childcare) is an issue that impacts a significant number of Australian families, and in particular working mothers" ACA President, Mr Paul Mondo said.

ACA commends the Australian Labor Party (ALP) for its commitment to adopt **all** of ACA's policy recommendations including **equitable access to affordable early learning services** – the new Government's signature election promise.

"Clearly, families will be the biggest beneficiaries when the new Labor Government implements its increased affordability measures," Mr Mondo said.

However, as more working mothers, in particular, are able to return to the workforce and increase the days their child attends an Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), there are concerns that the critical shortage of educators will intensify.

"**Workforce pressures** continue to be the most critical issue, with service providers struggling to find suitable educators," Mr Mondo said. "Without educators, some families may not be able to access their early learning service as the provider struggles to employ enough suitably qualified educators and teachers."

"The last two years have already proven to be extremely challenging for our families and our members, but the pandemic has underscored how vital the early learning sector is to the national economy.

We are now turning our attention to a very bright future," Mr Mondo said. "With a new Australian Government as our partner, our aim is to achieve our vision – a future where **every child in Australia** has access to high quality, affordable and sustainable early learning services."

"We congratulate Prime Minister Albanese and look forward to working with the new government to implement their promised election policies and ensure that every child in Australia has **the best start in life**, regardless of their parents' circumstances or where they live."

**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**.

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