

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **ACA welcomes new government investment in early learning – a well-informed implementation strategy is the key**

Australia's peak body for private long day early learning services, the Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) has welcomed today's announcements that Victorian and New South Wales governments will invest significantly in the early learning sector. In particular the ACA heralded as a game-changer for families to provide low or no cost preschool/kindergarten for 4-year-olds in the year before school.

"The last few years have highlighted the importance of our sector to the national economy and the enormous benefits of high-quality early learning for our young children," ACA President Mr Paul Mondo said. "This was reflected in the federal election when Labor made equitable and affordable childcare its signature policy.

ACA appreciates that reform of this nature by the Victorian and NSW governments will, no doubt, take significant work to ensure that the funding is spent for the most impactful, positive outcome for our young children, their families and the sector more broadly," Mr Mondo continued.

"We look forward to collaborating with all levels of government to ensure that the capital investment is used most effectively, leveraging existing infrastructure and ensuring a strong return on investment for taxpayers," Mr Mondo said.

ACA's shared priority is to now address the critical shortage of educators that risks undermining the significant investment by Federal and State Governments.

"We need our services to remain open and to comfortably cope with the anticipated increased demand that these policies are likely to create.

"With the Federal and state governments as our partner, we know we will achieve our vision – a future where **every child in Australia** has access to high-quality, affordable and sustainable early learning services," Mr Mondo said.

"We look forward to working with all of our decision makers to ensure that their respective investments in the sector make a life-changing difference to our families 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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