

## MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday 19 May 2019

### ACA is keen to work with the government to put the needs of Australia's young children and families first

Australia's peak body for private long day early learning services, the Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) extends its congratulations to Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the Coalition on their federal election win.

"The community engagement during the lead up to this election has shown that accessibility and affordability of early learning is an issue that impacts a significant number of Australian families," ACA President Paul Mondo said.

ACA also commends the Australian Labor Party for its commitment to all of ACA's *Best Start In Life* policy requests, and ensuring that access to affordable early learning services was front and centre of this election.

"We're really pleased that the benefit of high quality, affordable early childhood education to Australia's young children as well as to future prospects of the Australian economy are increasingly being recognised, both by government and the general community." Mr Mondo said.

"The government's Child Care Subsidy (CCS), which was introduced in July last year, has helped affordability for a significant number of families." Mr Mondo said.

"However, the system requires further work to ensure that it is working effectively for families and service providers, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that all children have the same opportunity for the best start in life."

"ACA has enjoyed a positive working relationship with the government, the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services during the design of the Child Care Subsidy, as well as during the transition and implementation."

"We look forward to continuing this relationship with the government to ensure that their policy affecting the early learning sector delivers outcomes that are in the best interests of Australian families, with a view to giving **every child** in Australia the **best start in life**, regardless of their parents' circumstances or where they live."

**ENDS**

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#### Australian Childcare Alliance

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#### State Presidents

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NSW	Lyn Connolly	0425 225 275
VIC	Paul Mondo	0411 587 170
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## **BACKGROUND**

*As the national peak body in the Australian Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector, the Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) represents more than 2,500 members and approximately 360,000 families throughout Australia.*

*We work on behalf of long day care service owners and operators, to ensure families have the opportunity to access affordable, quality ECEC throughout Australia.*

*The ACA has existed in various forms for more than 30 years and has extensive experience in the fields of early childhood, education, training and management. Our experience means that we understand the critical role a quality ECEC program plays in the life of families and the importance of a viable long day care sector in preparing children for the best start in life and learning.*

*ACA's national and state bodies work collaboratively with all levels of government, regulatory bodies and other stakeholders to ensure that families are supported into the future with a sustainable, affordable and viable sector, with a focus on the best interests of Australia's young children.*

*ACA's pre-election **Policy Paper: Let's Give Our Children The Best Start In Life** is available at [www.BestStartInLife.org.au](http://www.BestStartInLife.org.au) .*

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