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MEDIA RELEASE

Changes to activity test will benefit vulnerable and disadvantaged children

The Australian Childcare Alliance today applauds changes to the activity test that were passed through Parliament and celebrates the positive impact it will have on vulnerable and disadvantaged children who will now have access to quality Early Childhood Education and Care.

The Senate passed the Government's bill to guarantee parents a minimum three days of subsidised childcare, regardless of how much they work or study.

Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) President Paul Mondo said this change was a critical moment for the ECEC sector and one that the ACA had been advocating for a long time.

“This change is a critical step in improving access to vulnerable children needing access to ECEC, and has been endorsed by multiple reports, including the Inquiry into Australia’s early childhood education and care system by the Productivity Commission last year,” he said.

“Having access to ECEC will have a huge impact on Australia’s most vulnerable and disadvantaged children. This monumental shift will achieve immediate benefits now and in the years ahead.

“Parents, government and the sector are all aligned in wanting childcare to be available, affordable and high-quality. ACA believes this is vital for Australian families and we’re looking forward to implementing the change,” Mr Mondo said.

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. We represent over 3,000 early learning service providers across the country.

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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