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MEDIA RELEASE

ACA Welcomes Child Safety Reforms, Calls For Practical Implementation Support

The Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) welcomes today's confirmation from Federal Education Minister Jason Clare that mandatory safety training for the early childhood education and care workforce will commence from February next year, including up to five early closures annually to facilitate delivery.

The Minister has acknowledged the inconvenience this will cause for families and has confirmed that services will be required to provide advance notice, with centres closing as early as 5pm on scheduled training days.

ACA recognises that the intent of these reforms is to strengthen child safety across the sector and reflects the seriousness of recent events that have shaken public confidence in early learning settings nationwide.

"These reforms arise from a period of intense scrutiny across the education and care sector," ACA President Mr Paul Mondo said.

"The safety of children is paramount and training that strengthens workforce capability must be enabled, funded and also ensure that we support our educators, rather than add to their workload."

The mandatory training forms part of a broader national reform package agreed to by state and territory education ministers in August.

While the ACA supports meaningful safeguards for children, it also emphasises the importance of implementing these reforms in a way that supports educator wellbeing and avoids adding to existing workload pressure and burnout.

Mr Mondo added, "It is essential that implementation is accompanied by practical funding support, reasonable notice periods for families, and flexibility for services to meet these obligations without destabilising operations. This non contact time is recognised in other education settings and we welcome it being incorporated into early education.

"ACA will continue to work closely with governments to ensure the rollout of mandatory training delivers real safety outcomes for children, while remaining workable for the services and educators responsible for caring for them every day."

ENDS

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About Australian Childcare Alliance

The Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) is a not-for-profit, member-funded organisation advocating for the future of Australia's children.

We work on behalf of early learning service providers to ensure families and their children have an opportunity to access affordable, high quality early learning services throughout Australia.

The ACA has existed in various forms for more than 30 years and has extensive experience in the fields of early learning, training and management.

We work with Federal and State Governments, regulatory authorities and other key sector stakeholders to ensure that families are supported into the future with a sustainable, affordable and viable early learning sector.

About Paul Mondo - President, ACA



With over 20 years of experience as an early learning service provider, Paul has developed a strong understanding of the challenges facing owner/operators in an ever-changing, highly-regulated landscape.

This wealth of experience coupled with a passion for the benefits of early learning inspired Paul to take a leadership role in the advocacy space.

Formerly the Secretary of ACA's Executive Committee and former President of ACA Victoria, Paul has now been President of the Australian Childcare Alliance for over eight years, playing

a key role in advocating for the interests of ACA members and the early learning sector at the Federal Government level.

Primarily, Paul is dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to high-quality, affordable early learning services in Australia and therefore have the best start in life.

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