



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **CELA welcomes investment in child safety training for staff**

*30 November 2025*

Peak body Community Early Learning Australia (CELA) welcomes Minister Clare's announcement to fund early childhood education staff to complete new mandatory child safety training.

Investment in early educators and teachers is the most effective way to drive a national uplift in the safety of children. The Federal Government has recognised this by prioritising the reforms that will create a stable, skilled, and valued workforce.

On 1 December, long day care educators and teachers will receive the second instalment of the 15% pay increase, fixing decades of pay inequality. CELA was proud to negotiate the first national supported bargaining agreement that delivered this pay rise, on behalf of community managed and small providers of early education and care. The ECEC Worker Retention Grant has already made a significant difference to our sector's workforce crisis. It has meant services have the ongoing funding certainty to attract and retain the qualified staff they need to deliver high quality services.

Today's announcement by Minister Clare takes this a step further by ensuring services can support their educators and teachers to complete mandatory child safety training.

Not for profit early community managed and many for profit small providers prioritise child safety by investing their full funding envelope in the delivery of quality early education and care for children, led by qualified trained staff. They consistently invest in their workforce, because they know this is the key to delivering high quality safe services for children.

#### **Quotes attributable to Community Early Learning Australia CEO Michele Carnegie:**

"It's the people around children that keep them safe.

"Paid time for staff to complete mandatory child safety training helps ensure every eye and ear on the ground knows the role they play in protecting children from harm. .

"Helping services to invest in their qualified experienced educators and teachers throughout their career is essential.

"Today's announcement is a clear signal that the Federal Government values the time and expertise of educators, and understands that services need support to make this happen."

**ENDS**

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## **Interview opportunities – Sydney & online**

- CELA's CEO Michele Carnegie.

### **Background**

CELA supports over 1,800 members employing more than 27,000 educators and teachers nationally including community-managed not-for-profit, government and privately owned small providers delivering preschool, long day care, outside school hours care, and family day care services.

CELA negotiated the first national supported bargaining agreement on behalf of not-for-profit early education and care providers. This process was the catalyst for the Federal Government's \$3.6 billion commitment to fund a 15% increase in early childhood wages.