



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Education & care employers welcome the Prime Minister's commitment to universal early childhood education**

11 December 2024

Employer peak bodies Community Child Care Association (CCC) and Community Early Learning Australia (CELA) welcome the Prime Minister's plan for universal early childhood education and care, recognising the central role that community managed not-for-profit services will play in delivering this for Australian families.

Today's announcement confirms key reforms advocated by CCC and CELA including:

- delivering three days guaranteed early education and care for all children
- growing community managed not-for-profit services to ensure all children can access quality early education, particularly in child care deserts
- creating a sustainable early education workforce through professional wages
- research into the cost of delivering high quality early childhood education and care.

#### **Quotes attributable to Community Child Care Association Executive Director Julie Price:**

"Today's announcement acknowledges the true value of early childhood education and care for every child and family.

"The Prime Minister's plan invests in building our workforce and new services where they are needed so we have the foundations for a quality universal education and care system. This means we will have the places and people so every child can have the best start in life.

"These announcements recognise that every child has a right to access quality early childhood education, just like primary and secondary school."

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

"Today's commitment to a Three Day Guarantee for early education and care is the first step in a truly universal system for all children, no matter where they live or their family circumstances. The sector has been united for some time on changing the activity test because we know that it locks out the children who need early education the most.

"The Prime Minister's plan recognises community managed not-for-profit services as the foundation for delivering quality early childhood education to all children, no matter where they live.

"We've worked with so many communities that have been crying out for the infrastructure investment that today's announcement delivers.

"Community managed not-for-profit services will be critical to delivering the Three Day Guarantee, offering the greatest return for government investment with all funds reinvested into quality education and care."

**ENDS**

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

- CCC's Executive Director Julie Price
- CELA's CEO Michele Carnegie
- Interviews available with community managed not-for-profit services on request.

## **Background**

- CCC represents community-owned education and care services, including long day care, outside school hours care, kindergarten, family day care and occasional care educators, teachers, leaders, coordinators and directors.
- 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.