

Wednesday October 14 2020

Media alert

'What Queensland parents want. What our children need'

Affordable childcare could decide who wins the Queensland election

Brisbane: As Queensland prepares for a potential cliff-hanger election, affordable early learning (childcare) may decide who becomes the next Premier.

Independent parties, MPs and candidates have confirmed their support for a raft of smart and common sense policy recommendations developed by Queensland's peak body for the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector, the Australian Childcare Alliance Queensland (ACA Qld).

If there is a hung Parliament, early learning (childcare) policies will certainly be on the negotiation table to determine which party wins Government. The Queensland Greens have already provided written confirmation of its support for all of the policy recommendations outlined by ACA Qld in its election manifesto **'What Queensland parents want. What our children need'**.

Greens MP, Mr Michael Berkman, said in the letter: "It is clear the Alliance does incredibly important work on behalf of the early childhood sector."

On behalf of their 250,000 families and 14,500 early childhood educators, ACA Qld today called on both major parties to also commit to their policies that, if adopted, will provide greater affordability for families, access to quality early learning (childcare) for the most vulnerable of children, more jobs for educators and greater participation in the workforce for Queensland women.

The next State Government must make the following clear commitments to Queensland families, early childhood educators and ECEC service providers:

- fund the gap fee for disadvantaged families and provide two days per week at an early learning service of their choice. (This amounts to about \$33 per child, per week);
- treat all Queensland children equally, regardless of where they live, what their socioeconomic circumstances are and what type of early learning service meets the needs of their family;
- commit to extending, by five years, the Universal funding for all children to attend Kindergarten. If this does not happen, Queensland families will be forced to choose between a fee increase of \$43 a week or withdrawing their children from their high quality early learning (childcare) service;
- commit to 'location rules/demonstrable need' for early learning (childcare) services. Putting the needs of parents and good planning ahead of property developers – at no cost to taxpayers; and
- permanent payroll tax relief. This will lead to downward pressures on fees and more financial headroom for providers to attract and retain the highest possible early childhood educator workforce.

The COVID-19 pandemic pulled the curtain back on just how critical a strong and affordable ECEC sector is to the Queensland economy.

These policies look beyond the current COVID-19 crisis, to build a stronger future for our families, the communities in which they live and the economy of the state. ENDS

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'What Queensland parents want. What our children need' election policy manifesto can be downloaded [here](#)

The Queensland Greens' letter of commitment can be downloaded [here](#)

ACA Qld has been meeting with MPs from all sides of politics. [link here](#)

ACA Qld leadership are available today for an interview

President:	Ms Majella Fitzsimmons	0410 526 136	Townsville-based
Vice President:	Mr Jae Fraser	0408 873 492	Gold Coast-based
CEO:	Mr Brent Stokes	0408 339 220	Brisbane-based

About

ACA Qld is the peak body for early learning (childcare) services representing over 850 early learning services, who employ 13,500 educators, who educate and care for around 180,000 children of over 245,000 parents in Queensland.

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