

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACA Qld applauds Queensland Government's Support for Professional Development in Early Childhood Education

Brisbane, Thursday 7 March - The Australian Childcare Alliance Queensland (ACA Qld), a leading advocate for early childhood education and care in Queensland, congratulates the Queensland Government and the Department of Education for their commitment to funding two planning days for early childhood teachers (ECT's delivering kindergarten programs), paid-practicum placements for eligible working towards teachers and scholarships for aspiring ECT's.

President of ACA Qld, Majella Fitzsimmons, welcomes the Government's investment in supporting educators in the early childhood educators sector.

"We applaud the Government's move to invest in our workforce by allowing early childhood teachers access to the same government-funded two planning days each year which is afforded to teachers in primary and high school settings," Ms Fitzsimmons said.

Ms Fitzsimmons says ongoing professional development and curriculum development is an essential component of supporting best-practice childhood learning and care, and the funding announced today removes a financial barrier to completing qualifications.

"Planning days allow early childhood teachers to undertake training and enhance the curriculum which ultimately improves the experience of our youngest in their learning journey. This is a win-win in recognising the value of our workforce and will have great benefit to children and families across Queensland.

"In addition, we know planning days help to improve job satisfaction and retention which is absolutely vital in alleviating the very serious problem of workforce shortages in the early childhood sector.

"ACA Qld is committed to working closely with the government to ensure the successful implementation of this landmark initiative and is happy the voice of our members is being heard.

"We recognise the importance of a collaborative approach to achieving the best outcomes for educators and the children in their care and thank the government for listening to the sector and responding with such a positive step forward," Ms Fitzsimmons said.



MEDIA RELEASE

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About Australian Childcare Alliance Queensland

The Australian Childcare Alliance Queensland (ACA Qld) is a leading voice in advocating for high-quality early childhood education and care in Queensland. As Queensland's peak body for the sector, our membership represents more than 950 early learning (childcare) services, employing an estimated 17,500 early childhood educators and teachers who educate and care for around 200,100 children of 263,800 parents. ACA Qld is a not-for-profit organisation committed to ensuring that every Queensland child has the best start in life.