

MEDIA RELEASE – 3 NOVEMBER 2016

Planning Guidelines To Be Overhauled To Benefit More Childcare Services

The Australian Childcare Alliance New South Wales (ACA NSW) supports the announcement yesterday by the NSW Minister for Planning, the Hon Rob Stokes MP, and NSW Minister for Early Childhood Education, the Hon Leslie Williams MP, to work together to overhaul the planning guidelines across NSW for the establishment of new Early Childhood Education Centres.

ACA NSW President Nesha Oneil Hutchinson has been, and continues to work closely with both Ministers and their Departments, and was instrumental in establishing a joint taskforce, bringing together both Departments to collaborate on the review of development and planning guidelines.

Happy with the announcement, Ms Hutchinson said, "it has been a long time coming, but our advocacy has paid off as both Departments are committed to working together to bring about positive change for NSW-based families and childcare providers."

"It is not just about making it easier for new services to be established in areas of need," said Ms Hutchinson. "State and Federal Governments also need to ensure that we do not end up with the unintended negative consequences of oversupply," said Ms Hutchinson while citing neighbourhoods in Queensland and Victoria where the proliferation of services meant that existing high quality childcare centres suffered, and ultimately families were worse off due to poor planning.

"All local councils now need to harmonise with new state planning guidelines and work with the real demands and constraints of their local government areas. What is suitable for the Sydney CBD may not be suitable for the NSW North Coast or elsewhere, and all local councils need to take a market-based approach to planning and satisfying demand in a timely manner," said Ms Hutchinson

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Australian Childcare Alliance New South Wales is the peak body for privately owned early childhood education and care services in NSW, numbering approximately 1,100 long daycare services and supporting over 100,000 families. ACA NSW provides advocacy, policy and regulatory support and advice, member services and professional development for members across the state.

**For further media inquiries,
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