

**MEDIA RELEASE – 23 NOVEMBER 2016**

**New childcare President says sector needs fixing**

Members of the Australian Childcare Alliance New South Wales (ACA NSW) have elected Mrs Lyn Connolly as its new President.

Mrs Connolly is a 39-year veteran of the long daycare sector, running 7 childcare centres across metropolitan Sydney. She had previously been ACA NSW's President, Vice-President and a member of past Executive Committees.

She has also previously held the positions of Secretary and Executive Member of The Australian Federation of Child Care Associations, as well as President, Vice-President and Executive Member of the Australian Confederation of Child Care, Founding Vice President and past Committee Member and Secretary of the Australian Childcare Centres Association, Initiator and Founding Vice-President of the Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA). She was also awarded the Most Outstanding Business Person of the Year 2015 for Holroyd, and the Most Outstanding Business Person of the Year 2013 for Parramatta.

"I can't wait to start working with the incoming ACA NSW Executive Committee, staff, our stakeholders, governments, politicians and government agencies to fix the problems faced by owners of private long daycare centres. And when we get those right, we produce far better outcomes for the children we care for every day, and ultimately they are whom we must focus on," said Ms Connolly.

Outgoing ACA NSW President, Nesha Oneil Hutchinson said, "it has been an absolute privilege serving our sector. Even though there is still much to be done, I am proud that ACA NSW has become a key media 'go to' organisation, was part of the Cultural Connections Indigenous Forum at Macquarie University, and helped make happen the Universal Access Funding, NSW planning reform, and refining the Assessment & Rating process in NSW. I am also proud of our efforts to date in helping governments stop funding rorts, and collaborated with the BOSTES/Teacher Accreditation Authority Working Party."

Also elected to the 2017 Executive Committee are Elizabeth Russo (Vice-President), Karthika Viknarasah (Treasurer), Eleni Wilson (Secretary), Lienna Mandic, Phillip Malek, Donus Demir, Nicole Upfold, Adrian Pattra, Rebecca Moran and Merran Toth.

**\*\*\* END \*\*\***

Australian Childcare Alliance New South Wales is the peak body for privately owned early childhood education and care services in NSW, numbering approximately 1,000 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,  
please contact ACA NSW President Lyn Connolly on 0425 225 275,  
or ACA CEO Chiang Lim on 0427 277 299.**