

MEDIA RELEASE – 24 July 2017

Federal Department of Education restores 2,001 (37.5% of NSW) childcare services to providing childcare for migrant children

On 1 July 2017, under the Federal Government's Adult Migrant English Program, the Federal Department of Education had decided to cease funding approved childcare services (rated as Working Towards, Provisional Not Yet Rated or Significant Improvement Required) for the care of migrant children while their parents were undertaking English courses.

The Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) NSW was concerned that:

- out of 15,540 services across Australia, 5,150 are either Working Towards (3,718), Provisional Not Yet Rated (1,393) or Significant Improvement Required (39);
- of which in NSW, out of 5,340 approved childcare services, 2,026 are either Working Towards (1,569), Provisional Not Yet Rated (432) or Significant Improvement Required (25); and
- out of 1,569 services in NSW that are on Working Towards, 1,254 was last assessed between August 2012 and June 2016 (using an arbitrary deadline).

Consequently, 2,001 (37.5% of NSW) childcare services rated Working Towards and Provisional Not Yet Rated lost their ability to provide childcare services to these migrants' children while their parents were undertaking English courses, which would have resulted in a significant number of migrant families and their children redirected to a much smaller number of childcare services.

ACA NSW understands and appreciates that the Federal Department of Education has come to a similar view and has subsequently changed their position and restored AMEP funding to childcare service providers that are rated Working Towards or Provisionally Rated.

ACA NSW thanks the Federal Department of Education for this decision.

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Australian Childcare Alliance New South Wales (www.nsw.childcarealliance.org.au) is the peak body for privately owned early childhood education and care services in NSW, numbering approximately 1,600 long daycare services and supporting over 100,000 families. ACA NSW provides advocacy, policy and regulatory and business support and advice, member services and professional development for members and their staff across the state.

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