

MEDIA RELEASE – 25 AUGUST 2020

NSW GOVERNMENT’S GREEN PAPER CONFIRMS NSW-SPECIFIC CHILDCARE REGULATIONS COST 167%-333% MORE THAN ALL OTHER STATES

The Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) NSW welcomes the NSW Government’s [Green Paper](#), released by the NSW Productivity Commissioner, confirming that there are NSW-specific regulations contributing to higher childcare costs than all other Australian states, and fearing existing and future making of regulations continue to be inadequately developed without the necessary regard for their consequential impacts.

NSW Productivity Commissioner, Peter Achterstraat AM, highlighted the example that for NSW-based childcare centres and therefore parents, there can be a significant cost disparity of about 167% to 333% when compared against other states’ regulatory requirements for the number of degree-qualified early childhood teachers required.

“Commissioner Achterstraat’s findings and draft recommendations uphold our [public and long-held views](#) that NSW-based services and parents are too often disadvantaged without any demonstrable benefit that can be measured against the [National Quality Framework](#),” said ACA NSW CEO, Chiang Lim.

Centre-based services	ECTs in NSW	ECTs in other states	DIFFERENCE
< 25 children	0.2 FTE (Reg130)	0.2 FTE (Reg130)	0%
25-29 children	0.6 FTE (Reg272)	0.6 FTE (Reg132)	0%
30-39 children	1.0 FTE (Reg272)	0.6 FTE (Reg132)	167%
40-59 children	2.0 FTE (Reg272)	0.6 FTE (Reg132)	333%
60-79 children	3.0 FTE (Reg272)	1.5 FTE (Reg133)	200%
80 children	4.0 FTE (Reg272)	1.5 FTE (Reg133)	267%
80+ children	4.0 FTE (Reg272)	2.0 FTE (Reg134)	200%

Source: [Education and Care Services National Regulations \(NSW\)](#)

The operational costs emanating from these regulatory requirements are ultimately passed onto both parents, as well as the Federal Government (when those parents are eligible for the Commonwealth’s [Child Care Subsidies](#)).

“That said, especially because of COVID-19, we have [asked](#) the NSW Government to financially offset these more costly NSW-regulations in order to protect existing employees’ employment, help parents toward achieving fee-affordability, and ultimately cost parity with all other Australian states,” said Mr Lim.

Commissioner Achterstraat welcomes feedback from parents and NSW-based childcare centres via ProductivityFeedback@treasury.nsw.gov.au.

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Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) NSW (www.nsw.childcarealliance.org.au) is the peak body for privately owned early childhood education and care services in NSW, numbering approximately 1,600 childcare services. 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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