

MEDIA RELEASE – 19 AUGUST 2021

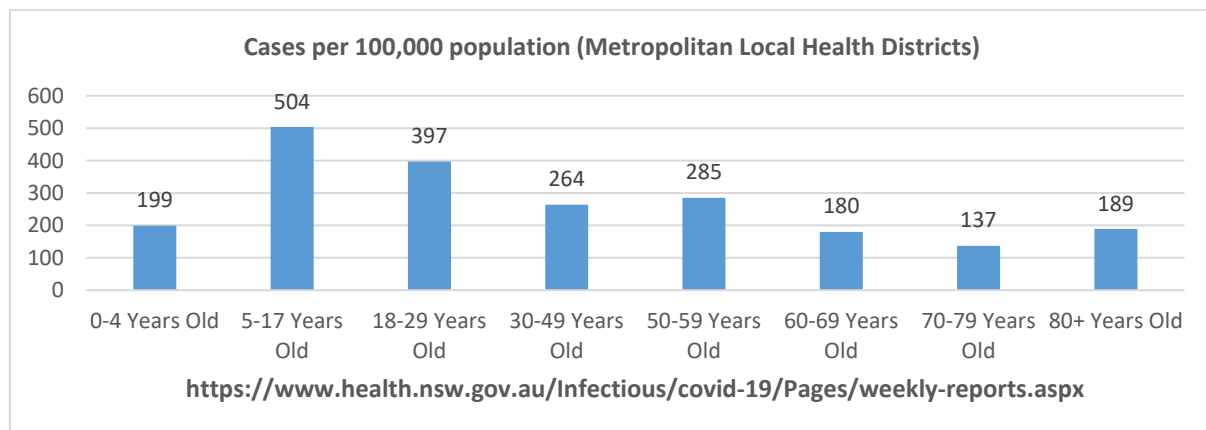
LOSE-LOSE AS PARENTS & CHILDCARE PROVIDERS ARE ANGRY, CONFUSED & FRUSTRATED WITH GOVERNMENTS' MESSAGES & SUPPORT

Comments from the NSW Chief Health Officer (Dr Kerry Chant) yesterday urged parents/guardians to “not send children to childcare unless they absolutely need to. If they are just working from home, that wouldn't be in my mind a reason to do it.”

Yet the NSW Public Health Orders remain unchanged, allowing all parents/guardians to continue to drop-off and pick-up their child/ren from their early childhood education and care services.

“Parents and childcare providers are angry, confused and frustrated with the NSW Government's contradictory public messages that are not helpful at these very difficult COVID times,” said Mr Chiang Lim, CEO of the Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) NSW.

After almost 8 weeks of the extended lockdown, based on the NSW Government's [COVID-19 Weekly Surveillance Reports](#), positive COVID-19 cases for children aged 0-4 years old are among the lowest if not the lowest of all age groups for the period 16 June to 31 July 2021.



While recognising the high transmissibility of the Delta variant, Mr Lim pointed out that “early childhood education and care (ECEC) services continue to be some of the safest places for young children, especially in contrast to the number of positive cases of school-aged children while schools are largely closed, or when compared to those 50-80 years and older who have far easier access to COVID vaccinations.”

The Federal and NSW Governments have so far offered JobSaver as the primary support mechanism for NSW's ECEC services during the extended lockdown. However, negatively affected ECEC services have been [responding to both governments that they are effectively ineligible](#) and additional government announcements are not adequately working.

“It is lose-lose in the midst of increasing lockdowns and restrictions, persistent government stay-at-home messages as well as inadequate government assistance. NSW is now experiencing early childhood job losses, reduced future capabilities, and services that will be closed forever to the detriment of local children and their families, educators and operators,” said Mr Lim.

*** END ***

- References:**
1. Submission to NSW & Federal Governments about inadequate support ([click here](#))
 2. Map showing declining attendances during Weeks 1-5 of extended lockdown ([click here](#))
 3. List of financial and operational risks to childcare centres ([click here](#))
 4. COVID Cases by Venue Type 28 Days to 18 August 2021 ([click here](#))

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.

**For further media inquiries, please contact
ACA NSW President Lyn Connolly on 0425 225 275
ACA NSW CEO Chiang Lim on 0427 277 299**