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NSW Election Candidates Must Invest in Our Future

Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) NSW has today released its [NSW Election Policy Priorities](#), calling on all parties to commit to policies and long-term investment capable of delivering quality and affordable early childhood education and care for families across New South Wales.

“There are more than 358 000 children using approved early childhood education and care in NSW, approximately 60% of whom are in long day care” ACA NSW President Nesha O’Neil said today.

“As we have seen Federally in recent weeks, childcare is the BBQ-stopper for Australian families, and this is particularly so in NSW, where we have the highest number of centres and the highest number of children in approved early childhood education and care nationally” Ms O’Neil said.

“The challenge for every political party running a candidate in the NSW election is to commit to long-term policies and funding priorities that ensure the best possible outcomes for children whilst helping alleviate the impact on family budgets and ensuring services remain viable” Ms O’Neil said.

“Make no mistake – this is not an easy task” Ms O’Neil said. “These issues affect a quarter of a million families across NSW, and that number is growing by the day”.

ACA NSW is the voice for private long day care in NSW, representing more than 1100 early childhood education and care services across the state. ACA NSW has called on all parties to commit to:

- Delayed implementation of changes to educator:child ratios;
- Reduced fees for Certificate III and Diploma qualifications;
- Coordinated, strategic planning for early childhood education and care; and
- Preschool funding for all children, including those in long day care.

“Ensuring children across NSW have access to quality and affordable early childhood education and care not only provides the best possible start for them in terms of school readiness and establishing a lifelong love of learning, but also stimulates the economy through increased workforce participation” Ms O’Neil said.

“We stand ready to work with all parties to ensure that the NSW Government invests in our future through long-term, meaningful policy and budgetary solutions” Ms O’Neil concluded.

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ACA President Nesha O’Neil

Nesha operates two long day care centres in Norwest and Ryde, providing early childhood education and care for more than 200 children and families in north west Sydney. Her family has been operating child care centres in Sydney since the 1950s and Nesha is also on the Board of the Australian Childcare Alliance, giving her an insight into the challenges, opportunities and trends facing the sector nationally.

