

EMBARGOED UNTIL MIDNIGHT TUESDAY 27 AUGUST 2013

27 August 2013

MR/003/13

Next Federal Government Must Deliver New Generation of Ideas on Child Care

Child Care New South Wales has today released its Federal Election policy*, calling on the major and minor parties to move beyond short-term, populist bandaid solutions to the challenge of delivering quality, accessible and affordable early childhood education and care.

“The demand for our services has never been higher” Child Care New South Wales President Vicki Skoulogenis said. “Two in every three children aged five years and under is currently using approved child care – more than 1 million nationally”.

“Increased regulatory demands on the sector, increased operational expenses, increased wage costs and overwhelming demand for permanent places is leading to the ‘perfect storm’ “Ms Skoulogenis said. “Demand is outstripping supply in many areas and families have made it clear that they simply cannot afford fee increases”.

“The challenge of meeting this unprecedented demand is not insignificant and the solutions are not easy” Ms Skoulogenis said. “But Child Care New South Wales stands ready to work with all levels of government, and indeed all political parties, to deliver meaningful, long-term policy and budgetary solutions once and for all”.

Child Care New South Wales, which represents more than 1100 approved child care services across NSW, is seeking firm commitments from the major and minor parties to:

1. Assist long day care services by immediately introducing flexible Early Childhood Teacher arrangements until chronic workforce shortages are addressed;
2. Assist families by resuming indexation of the Child Care Rebate annual cap;
3. Assist long day care services and families by reviewing and/or delaying the proposed introduction of new educator to child ratios for 2-3 year olds;
4. Assist families, long day care services and staff by committing to fund the sector more appropriately in respect of Equal Remuneration Orders; and
5. Assist long day care services by identifying and addressing inconsistent assessment and rating procedures within the sector.

“Ensuring current and future generations have access to quality, accessible early childhood education and care not only stimulates the economy through increased workforce participation, it also establishes the strongest of foundations for a lifetime love of learning” Ms Skoulogenis said.

“With ten days left in the election campaign, our political leaders have an unprecedented opportunity to deliver a new generation of ideas to benefit all Australians” Ms Skoulogenis said. “The question for families and our members is – who will step up?”

* [Click here](#) for a copy of Early Childhood Education and Care: A New Generation of Ideas.

Contact: Child Care New South Wales Executive Officer Brianna Casey 0439 723 401