

19 September 2013

MR/004/13

New Child Care NSW President Elected

Child Care New South Wales has a new President after north-west Sydney based long day care service operator Nesha O'Neil was elected unopposed at the organisation's Annual General Meeting last night.

"I am delighted to have been elected to lead and provide a collective voice for the more than 1100 early childhood education and care services our organisation represents across NSW" Ms O'Neil said.

"I will be leading Child Care New South Wales through a period of unprecedented change" Ms O'Neil said. "We are working with the NSW Government to meet universal access requirements for children in their year before school, and mid-way through implementing the requirements of the National Quality Framework (NQF) introduced by the former Federal Government".

"Whilst we now have a new Federal Government, which may lead to changes to the regulatory environment affecting our sector, what we know for certain is that families want quality and accessible education and care, and they want it to be affordable".

"The ideals of the NQF are noble, but without significant government support, our members face a real struggle balancing high quality early childhood education and affordability for families" Ms O'Neil said.

"I look forward to working with all levels of government, regulators and other peak bodies to find a solution that offers financial viability and the best possible outcomes for children" Ms O'Neil said.

Child Care New South Wales represents more than 1100 approved early childhood education and care services across the state, primarily in the private long day care sector. More than 40% of the organisation's members are regionally-based, highlighting the importance of delivering outcomes that are practical and achievable no matter the population size.

"As a mother of two young children and the operator of two long day care services in Top Ryde and Norwest, I know first-hand how absolutely vital our industry is in establishing the strongest of foundations for a lifetime love of learning, as well as stimulating the national economy through increased workforce participation".

"I am proud to be leading Child Care New South Wales and helping to make a difference to the lives of thousands of families across the state" Ms O'Neil concluded.

A number of other changes to the Child Care New South Wales Executive Committee were announced at last night's Annual General Meeting. Ms O'Neil replaces outgoing President Vicki Skoulogenis, who stepped down after 15 years of tireless involvement in the organisation.

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