

24 September 2019

The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC  
NSW Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning  
Parliament of New South Wales  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister Mitchell,

**Re: Appropriate implementation of NSW Coalition Government's  
Out-of-School-Hours-Care (OSHC) Election Promises**

As you would be aware, the Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) NSW represents 600 member approved providers and their 1,600 early childhood education and care services. Their services also include about 600 out-of-school-hours-care services either in their own right or as part of their long daycare services.

On 10 March 2019, the NSW Coalition announced plans where:

- out-of-school-hours-care "... will be made available to all parents with children at public primary schools by 2021"; and
- "public primary schools in Sydney, Newcastle, Illawarra and the Central Coast as well as major regional centres, will be required to open their playgrounds, halls or classrooms for before and after school care and school holiday care from 7am to 6pm to make life easier for families. Before and after school care services are available to primary school-aged children".

That said, at the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing on 4 September 2019 at the NSW Parliament, you and Secretary Mark Scott are quoted to have said:

1. "... it is not [for] every parent in every public primary school"; and
2. it will be available "... where there is demand for those services".

ACA NSW is concerned that the NSW Department of Education has not invited us in any substantive discussion about how these new OSHC objectives can be implemented by 2021. Moreover, we are concerned that your Department may be increasing the rental rates of spaces at public primary schools to levels that would no longer be operationally affordable for both services as well as families.

Would you kindly ask your Department to enable us to better understand your upcoming OSHC plans, processes, prices and funding arrangements, and allow us to provide constructive feedback that can help NSW families?

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,



Chiang Lim  
CEO