



## Media Release

29 October 2009

### Government child care reforms welcomed by Family Day Care Australia

Family Day Care Australia has welcomed the support of the Minister for Early Childhood Education and Child Care, The Hon Kate Ellis MP, in the campaign to improve the quality of early learning and child care.

Today at Parliament House the Minister was presented with a report commissioned by Early Childhood Australia which exhibited strong support to enhance the quality of the sector.

The Minister said, "Raising the quality of early childhood education and child care is a priority for the Rudd Government too, that's why we're leading reform in partnership with the States and Territories.

"We want all services to offer quality early education and care to all young children, no matter where they live or what their background."

Many of the findings presented in the Early Childhood Australia commissioned report support the objectives of Family Day Care Australia, the peak body of family-based early childhood education and care which has been actively helping Australian families for over 30 years.

From 1097 people the report surveyed earlier this month, 84 percent thought that improving childhood education is a priority is a priority. 92 percent of those surveyed also believed that employing and retaining experienced and qualified staff is vital, and 85% thought that increasing staff-to-child ratios is important.

In August this year, Family Day Care Australia put forward a submission to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), after comprehensive consultation with the family day care sector.

In that submission Family Day Care Australia confirmed that family day care offers small group care that enables children to receive individual attention.

Family Day Care Australia CEO Rhonda Bignell said, "All carers are skilled, experienced and highly trained; many hold formal qualifications ranging from Certificate III to university degrees. Carers and coordination unit staff receive on-going professional training to continuously improve family day care services for children and families."

Bignell believes that the Minister's show of support to improve the early learning and child care sector is an encouraging step towards achieving an integrated national framework which would deliver consistency within and across all service types in the sector.

The fundamental role of Family Day Care Australia is to provide resources and advocacy to its members.

For further information on Family Day Care please visit [www.familydaycare.com.au](http://www.familydaycare.com.au) or call 1800 621 218.

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