

Media Release

**24 November 2009**



### **Quality care welcomed by Family Day Care Australia**

National child care peak body Family Day Care Australia (FDCA) supports the report of the Senate Standing Committee into the Provision of Child Care tabled in the Senate today.

Rhonda Bignell FDCA CEO said, "I welcome the report presented to the Senate by the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations References Committee. Their year long inquiry supports Family Day Care Australia's objectives of delivering high quality early childhood education and care services and ensures that outcomes for children are at the centre of policy debate and decision making."

The Minister for Early Childhood Education and Child Care, The Hon Kate Ellis MP, has also voiced her support, "We've been working hard to achieve lower staff-to-child ratios, higher qualifications for staff, and tougher quality standards for services and rating systems so that parents can make informed choices about where they send their kids."

Family day care, where learning and care takes place in the home of registered, monitored, trained and resourced carers, already has low staff to child ratios and children are able to receive individual attention in a small group setting. All carers are highly trained and many hold tertiary qualifications ranging from Certificate III in Children's Services through to university degrees in Early Childhood Education.

The report recommends the establishment of a new statutory body, for the purposes of advising the Minister on child care policy and implementation, with powers to oversee a uniform regulatory regime operating across states and territories. Family Day Care Australia strongly supports this recommendation and believes that family day care should be represented to ensure this unique form of child care and education is well considered within the government's agenda.

The Education, Employment and Workplace Relations References Committee's inquiry into the provision of child care commenced in November 2008 following the collapse of ABC Developmental Learning Centres Pty Ltd (ABC Learning).

In July 2009, Family Day Care Australia gave evidence to the Senate Inquiry and encouraged the government to focus on putting the child at the centre of child care and to implement reforms that improve the holistic quality of early childhood education and child care across the board.

"Every child, no matter what the setting, deserves consistent, high quality care and education," said Bignell. "The early years are critical, and we have an obligation to ensure that every child receives quality care, every day."

Family day care is highly regulated and operates under the National Childcare Accreditation Council's Family Day Care Quality Assurance system.

Bignell believes that the report of the Senate Standing Committee is a step towards achieving an integrated national framework that will deliver much needed consistency within and across all service types in the sector.

For further information on Family Day Care Australia visit [www.familydaycareaustralia.com.au](http://www.familydaycareaustralia.com.au)

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