

PROTECTING OUR FAMILIES FROM INCREASED CHILD CARE COSTS

Introduction

Day in, day out we are told by economists about how the cost of living is increasing and that many Australian families are increasingly under financial pressure. These families are our families, families like yours who entrust us to care for their 400,000 children. The Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) represents 70 per cent of Australia's long day childcare (private and community) providers. These hard working families send about one in three Australian children under three to regulated childcare centres; tell us that childcare is a necessity *not* a luxury which *they* need in order to survive.

Fighting increased costs caused by Government reforms

We support, in principle, the intent of the Government, via the COAG Education and Care Service National Regulations reforms, to encourage the sector to continue to provide superior care and early learning for all children. We are committed to working with the Government to ensure policies to improve the quality of care and the qualifications of the staff caring for them can be achieved. However, we remain concerned that the National Regulations will have unintended consequences for the very children and parents the Government is trying to help. Importantly, we worry for the financial impact on you and your family and the consequences any increase in costs may have on them, their children and the economy if our parents are forced to withdraw their children, quit their jobs or put their children in the care of unregulated backyard operators.

Say no to means testing of Child Care Rebate

Right now, we are also concerned that the Government – in its bid to return the Budget to surplus – will seek to means test the parent subsidy the Child Care Rebate. This would have a devastating impact on tens of thousands of our parents – and would see many working mothers forced to quit their jobs, reduce their hours and/or remove their child from their early learning programs altogether.

We plan to fight any move to financial hurt parents. The CCR is not a welfare measure but a productivity lever aimed at helping mothers, in particular, to return to the workforce.

Request for your participation in our 'What Parents Want' survey

Please help us help you.

Please participate in an online survey about any concerns you may have regarding the cost of child care and what may happen if costs are increased.

The survey should only take 5-7 minutes and will then be analysed, benchmarked against our 2010 survey of 3000 parents and shared with the Government

[Click here to begin the survey.](#)

Send a message to your MP

Also, if you are concerned about the cost of child care and the potential impact means testing will have on your family, please be sure to tell your local member. Their email is firstname.lastname.mp@aph.gov.au. If you want to check who is your local member you can find them on the www.aec.gov.au website by putting in your postcode.

Further, you may also want to tell the Minister direct your concerns. Kate.ellis@deewr.gov.au and peter.garrett@deewr.gov.au

Thank you for your support. If you have any concerns about meeting these increased costs, do not hesitate to contact your centre director.

Vicki Skoulogenis
President
Child Care New South Wales