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National Association Of Community Based Children's Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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FIXING THE CHILD CARE 'SHAMBLES'

The community sector has the answer to fixing the 'shambles' of the current child care system in Australia. The National Association of Community Based Children's Services (NACBCS) can ensure that community demands for high quality, accessible, affordable child care can be met. What is needed is a government commitment to retaining and developing community owned, not-for-profit children's services.

NACBCS demands child care policies that:

- Invest capital in building new community child care services
- Improve Child Care Benefit (CCB) fee relief for low income families
- Cash up the 30% tax rebate and invest it in CCB

"Children are just too precious for profit. We need more support for children, parents, families and communities" said Lynne Wannan, Convenor of NACBCS.

Community owned not-for-profit children's services are essential. They must be retained along side commercial services in the mixed economy of child care in order to build responsive communities.

'We are alarmed that the Australian Government is allowing unchecked growth of publicly listed corporate child care chains - they can never take the place of locally owned, parent run services' Ms Wannan said today.

Child care needs to be about more than tax concessions - the provision of adequate childcare is about more than tax deductibility and salary sacrificing.

Child care policy must focus on capital funding for the establishment of new community-owned services and on improving wages for child care workers while protecting affordability for families. This is the way forward for child care – a planned investment by government in an accessible system of high quality child care services for all Australian families.

For further comment:

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