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## **national association of community based children's services**

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### **Spot checks will improve child care**

The federal Minister for Community Services is correct (*Sunday Age* 5 Dec) – the accreditation system to ensure high quality in child care in Australia must be improved.

In light of the growth of publicly listed, corporate child care chains, the quality assurance system must start doing spot checks so that operators cannot put on a special effort to show a quality program just for the validator. Children need high quality, age appropriate programs every day they are in formal care – and any service which pockets tax payer funds must be willing to be scrutinised whenever they are operating.

But the Minister must be careful in calling for consistent state regulations for the safety of children in formal care. If this is to happen then all states must be brought up to the highest standards in the country, not watered down to the lowest common denominator.

Barbara Romeril  
National Secretary  
National Association of Community Based Children's Services