

MEDIA RELEASE

15 May 2024

Budget boost for early childhood educators

Communities at Work has welcomed last night's Commonwealth commitment to a wage subsidy for early childhood educators in the 2024/2025 Budget announcement. Whilst anticipating more detail in the announcement, the commitment is acknowledged as a significant step forward.

The announcement is one that will go down in history as being a commitment to pay equity in an overwhelmingly female sector and supports workforce participation at a time providers are experiencing critical shortages.

Communities at Work Director of Children's Services, Kellie Stewart, said commitment to the wages boost could not have come at a better time. "Communities at Work has been advocating for Government to co-invest in wages to ensure that the highly skilled and qualified educators are appropriately valued.

"The cost-of-living pressures and a workforce crisis nobody needs is affecting families and services, not only across the greater Canberra region but at a national level. With demand for places in early childhood education outstripping the supply of workers, we all stand to benefit by paying essential workers like they *are* essential."

Communities at Work looks forward to responding to the policy detail as soon as it becomes available.

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ABOUT COMMUNITIES AT WORK

Communities at Work is a diverse non-profit community organisation and the largest local provider of Early Education and Care services in Canberra. With two community pantries, support services for people experiencing hardship, the Galilee School, seniors and disability services, and many other initiatives we aim to build resilient and inclusive communities in the ACT and Capital region. For more information visit www.commsatwork.org