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**Outside School Hours Council of Australia cautiously welcomes the
Federal Government's wage rise funding support**

The Outside School Hours Council of Australia (OSHCA) welcomes the Federal Government's announcement allocating funding to support a wage rise across the care sector. OSHCA has advocated tirelessly to educate decision makers on the vital service that outside school hours care provides to children and their families across Australia and the need for funding to ensure access to high quality before and after school care and support for the retention of our Educators.

Whilst we are yet to see specific detail, we look forward to continuing to work closely with government to ensure that there are no adverse unintended consequences on our part of the sector. We have some concerns regarding the constraints on fees given the unique, already affordable characteristics of OSHC compared to long day care, and the impact on wages and the viability of providers once the government retention grants cease.

We are supportive of any change that supports OSHC providers to attract and retain high quality educators. Accessible care is critical in allowing parents, and particularly women to participate in the workforce, increase their working hours or to fulfil their work obligations, in turn supporting our nation's productivity and growth agenda.

OSHCA also supports our workforce being appropriately recognised and remunerated for the important role they play in the development of the "next generation". Our members represent approximately a third of the 4,000+ services that are operated on school sites throughout Australia, employing more than 10,000 people. Our sector provides affordable care for the children of over 350,000 Australian families who rely on our services to be able to work & support family needs.

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