

MEDIA RELEASE

Outside School Hours Council of Australia (OSHCA) Applauds Federal Government's Commitment to Wage Rise Funding for Early Childhood Education and Care Sector

OSHCA welcomes the Federal Government's commitment to allocate funding for a wage rise in the care sector, demonstrating recognition of the vital role that outside school hours care (OSHC) plays in supporting children and families nationwide.

As we await further details on the funding package, including the quantum and timing, OSHCA is encouraged by indications that the funding will be equitable across all parts of the Early Childhood Education and Care Sector, including OSHC.

The OSHC sector faces significant workforce challenges, with shortages becoming increasingly difficult to address. This ongoing issue is of great concern to providers, especially as the demand for care rises with more parents taking on additional work to manage cost of living pressures.

OSHCA advocates for the appropriate recognition and remuneration of our predominantly female workforce, highlighting their crucial role in nurturing the next generation and supporting workforce and productivity objectives. The wage rise funding is a positive step for our sector, which endured substantial losses during COVID-19 lockdowns and is now focused on rebuilding the workforce post-pandemic.

OSHCA represents approximately a third of the 4,000+ services operated on school sites throughout Australia, employing over 10,000 people across all mainland states and territories. We speak on behalf of the entire OSHC sector in expressing our gratitude for the Government's acknowledgment of our workforce's value in providing affordable care to over 350,000 Australian families. This care supports child development and enables parents and guardians to work and meet their families' needs.

ENDS