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Child care is delivering on quality reforms for Australian children

New research shows that after six months of the National Early Years Quality Reforms the community child care sector is thriving - warnings of chaos and disaster have entirely missed the mark.

The Australian Community Children's Services (ACCS) Trends in Community Children's Services Survey (TICCSS) of over 640 Early Childhood Education and Care services across Australia shows that improved minimum standards of quality have not raised child care fees to unaffordable levels - only half of services increased their fees in the first half of 2012, with the average increase being modest at just under \$5 a day. The major reason for the increase was the normal cost of living increases.

Other key findings are:

- The average price for centre based long day care is \$75 per day.
- With just over a year till the new requirements for higher staff qualifications, only 12 per cent of the workforce is not qualified and a quarter of the workforce is currently studying to obtain their first qualification or up-skilling.
- The sector is embracing the reforms and is actively working towards ensuring high quality education and care for all Australian children.

ACCS National Convenor Prue Warrilow said, "TICCSS shows that not for profit children's services are on board with the reforms. Our members are delivering a good start for Australian children around the country."

A second wave of TICCSS research will be released in January 2013. Please find the full report at www.ausccs.org.au.

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