

Media Release
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Challenges ahead for the Early Years Quality Fund

Australian Community Children's Services (ACCS) welcomes the opportunity to participate on the Australian Government's Early Years Quality Fund Advisory Board. ACCS is pleased that Minister Garrett has appointed a diverse and highly skilled Advisory Board with a range of expertise and perspectives.

As a national advocate for the right of Australia's children to access quality not for profit community children's services ACCS will ensure that the Advisory Board consider issues of equity and access to the \$300million fund, particularly for community managed small stand alone services and rural and remote services.

The \$300 million fund will be used to support desperately needed wage increases for early childhood educators. The money is only available for 2 years and the fund is not enough to cover a wage increase for the entire early childhood workforce. Despite these limitations in time and reach, this initiative is the first time any Australian Government has acknowledged they have a responsibility to help lift wages in the children's services sector. The implications of that are significant and ACCS commends the Gillard government for its willingness to do something about low wages of educators and looks forward to the challenge of working to ensure the best outcomes possible with this funding.

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