

MEDIA RELEASE 25/06/13

**Community Child Care Services call on Professor Sloan to retract “dim witted”
child care staff comment**

Australian Community Children’s Services (ACCS) calls on Professor Judith Sloan to retract and apologise for the comment that she made in a blog post that refers to child care staff as “dim witted graduates from second rate universities.” A comment which she stood by when questioned about it on the Q & A program on ABC television on Monday night.

Professor Sloan’s offensive and unhelpful comments reveal contempt for, and ignorance of, the complex work that early childhood professionals undertake when educating children and supporting families in a range of education and care settings. Childcare educators provide support for young children and families with complex needs including disabilities, serious and chronic physical and mental health issues and social isolation as well as enabling families to work or to study. Every family using childcare and every provider of childcare in this country should be concerned by Professor Sloan’s comments.

Professor Sloan also disputed the need for requiring improved qualifications for staff working in education and care services despite robust international research evidence that raising the qualifications and skills of staff improves learning and development outcomes for children.

As Dr Anne Kennedy National Secretary of ACCS said today, “There is compelling evidence that improving the qualifications and skills of educators working in education and care services is a sound economic and social investment for children, families and the community. This is the reason why the Australian government has introduced the National Quality Framework with its commitment to wide ranging and sustained improvement for the sector.”

ACCS supports the National Quality Framework because it recognises that children of all ages have a right to high quality education and care provided by qualified and skilled educators.

For further information and comment contact:

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