

## **MEDIA RELEASE 30/7/2014**

### **Community voice included on Ministerial Advisory Council on Child Care and Early Learning**

Australian Community Children's Services (ACCS) is pleased to accept a place on the recently announced Ministerial Advisory Council on Child Care and Early Learning. ACCS National Convenor Prue Warrilow will use her position on this Council, to represent Australia's not-for-profit community owned education and care services and those who support the right of children to access these services.

*Ms Warrilow is 'looking forward to being able to participate and contribute to the national conversation about early and middle childhood children's services. It's a great opportunity to ensure that the voices of community owned children's services are heard.'*

The appointment of the Ministerial Advisory Council comes at a pivotal time for education and care in Australia. The Productivity Commission has just released its draft Child Care and Early Learning Report that proposes significant changes to the way education and care is delivered and funded. ACCS views aspects of the report as progressive and welcomes the recommendation to maintain the National Quality Framework but believes the Commission is wrong in its recommendations in some key areas including

- Allowing services to temporarily operate with staffing levels below required ratios (by averaging over a day or a week)
- Requiring educators working with children under 3 to only hold a certificate III level qualification – no Diplomas required
- Removing eligibility of not for profit providers to payroll tax and Fringe Benefit Tax exemptions
- Removing preschools from the scope of the NQF
- Funding arrangements that would result in reduced access and financial support for many vulnerable families and children and for families in crisis.

According to Ms Warrilow the implementation of these recommendations would not be in the interests of children and their right to access quality community managed education and care. She is pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion and consideration of these issues as part the Ministerial Advisory Council.

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#### **For further information contact:**

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