

MEDIA RELEASE

## **GREENS POLICY A CLOSE MATCH TO ACCS ELECTION PLATFORM**

22.6.16

The Greens Party has replied immediately to our request for a response to the ACCS Federal Election Platform.

Read the response below to see the close match to our policy proposals that benefit children and their families.

ACCS calls on its members across Australia to distribute the response from the Greens to families in their communities – to inform their vote on 2 July.

A full score card, assessing the policies of all the major parties against the ACCS election policies will be published when all responses are received.

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### **1. Increase the fee subsidy to 90 per cent of the full costs of early childhood education and care (ECEC) for low income families and 100 per cent of the full costs for children who are experiencing vulnerability or are at risk**

The Greens will streamline the Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR) into a single means tested payment made direct to centres.

Currently, the CCR is a capped amount that is made equally available to all families, regardless of their income. By combining both CCB and CCR into a single means tested payment, the Greens' proposal would make the system both easier to navigate and better targeted towards families who need greater support.

Families earning around \$65,000 or less will receive a subsidy of 85 per cent of the actual fee charged. For family incomes above \$65,000, the subsidy tapers down to 20 per cent when family income reaches \$340,000.

### **2. All children, including those of non-working parents, are eligible for subsidised ECEC for at least 2 days per week – from a minimum of 18 hours up to 24 hours per week reflecting the operating hours of the service**

The Australian Greens will ensure all children have access to a minimum of 24 hours of quality early childhood education and care which can be split over 2 or 3 days per week.

### **3. Build a skilled and professional early childhood workforce – no HECS, free TAFE**

Under the Green's policy, as early childhood educators enter the workforce, they will be rewarded for choosing to work in the long day care sector.

Each year that a person works in a childcare centre the government will cover their HELP debt repayments for them, so that it doesn't come out of their wage.

This way we would encourage early childhood educators into the childcare sector, incentivise them to stay in the ECEC workforce and give them a boost by waiving the entirety of their HELP debt over the years.

The level of government supported repayment would be doubled for people who choose to work in remote and regional areas where demand for childcare educators is very high.

### **4. No children and their families in detention in Australia or off-shore**

The Greens have a long-standing commitment to ending the detention of children in Australia and offshore.

The Greens will close the camps on Nauru and Manus Island. All children will be placed in the community with their families while their claims are assessed. In addition, the Greens will launch a Royal Commission into Children in Detention.