



Advocating nationally for the right of Australia's children to access quality, not for profit, community owned children's services

ACCS IN ACTION! April 2022



40th Anniversary



NATIONAL CONVENOR'S UPDATE

Prue Warrilow, National Convenor

The federal election is on! ACCS is primed and ready to push for progressive policies from all political parties for early childhood education and care.

Our Federal Election Policy Platform was distributed to policy makers on all sides of politics last August so we expect to see at least some of our proposals reflected in the policies released over the next six weeks, and supported by other peaks groups such as CELA, ELLA and Community Child Care Victoria who adopted our key asks in their joint platform. ACCS will publish a scorecard closer to the election to inform you and the families in your services of the policies that each party commits to.

Looking back over the 40 years of NACBCS and ACCS it is interesting to see that the first national conference in 1983 was held just 4 months after the landslide victory of the Hawke Labor Government. And the keynote address from Deborah Brennan asked the question 'What changes to the children's services program can we expect under a Federal Labor government? or 'What difference will Labor make?'

And so we ask the same question in 2022 – will Labor's 'cheaper child care' maintain the hard won quality improvements that the community sector fought for? Will Labor's stated commitment to support pay increases for aged care workers extend to support for professional wages for early childhood teachers and educators?

And what would a returned Coalition Government do to support the education and care of young Australians?

Throughout this issue we reproduce some images from the proud history of advocacy by the community children's services sector as a taster for what will be presented at the 40th anniversary celebration event on Wednesday 18 May 2022 at 2pm (EST). The program is coming together and we are delighted to announce that Professor Deborah Brennan will speak at the celebration about those early days of national advocacy.

We hope all current members of ACCS will join us via Zoom or in person at an event in your state.

ACCS GUIDES VOCATIONAL TRAINING

On the advice of Brian Newman (ACCS Vic) and Chair of the Children's Education and Care Industry Reference Committee, the ACCS National Executive has thrown its support behind the new organisation HumanAbility and its application to

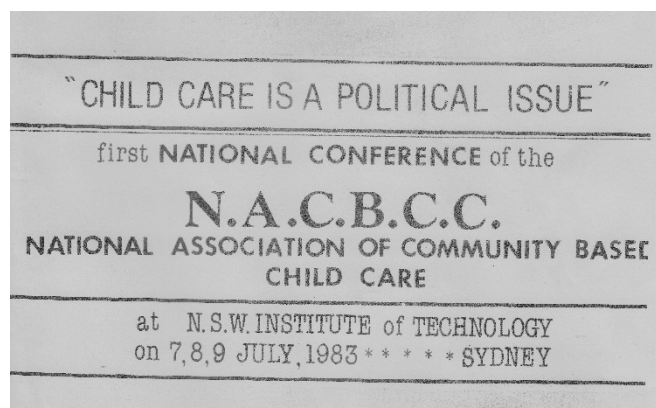
become an Industry Cluster under the new arrangements for vocational education. It hopes to ensure a strong voice for industry across the Children's Education and Care, Health, Human Services and Sport and Recreation sectors.



40 years of advocating for the right of Australia's children to access quality, not for profit community owned children's services

1982 National Association of Community Based Child Care (NACBCC) formed

1983 First national conference 'Child Care is a Political Issue'



1990s First child care quality improvement accreditation system introduced after lobbying by NACBCS and others

NACBCS log of claims to federal government to reinstate subsidies for community child care, increase quality requirements and tighten monitoring and regulation

Early 2000s NACBCS raised concerns about wages and conditions to attract and retain skilled staff

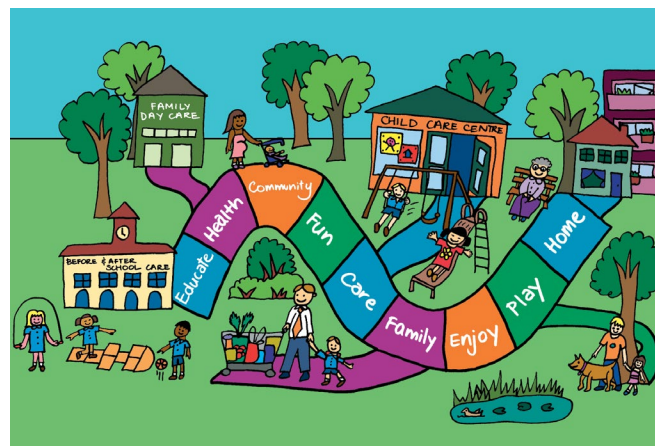
2001 NACBCS federal election campaign 'Children, Families and Communities Together – A New Agenda' with a Lobby kit to lobby for:

- Funding for community child care
- Increased wages for Child Carers
- Stop destructive competition

And a dedicated website childrenfirst.org.au

Bumper stickers 'Children too precious for profit' and a colourful postcard 'Caring for Children In Our Community' for families to send

to politicians (image now on ACCS website home page)



2003 NACBCS submission to Senate Poverty Inquiry emphasised poverty wages for child care staff

Increased media comment on limitations of corporate child care especially ABC Learning

2004 NACBCS published 'Community Ownership in 21st Century'

Federal election campaign 'Children... too precious for profit'

2006 National conference

2007 NACBCS 25th anniversary publication 'Child Care is a Political Issue – National Association of Community Based Children's Services Celebrating 25 years 1982 – 2007'

NACBCS published 'A National Policy for Australia 2007 & Beyond'

2008 Change of name to Australian Community Children's Services (ACCS)

2010 National ACCS conference 'Waves of Change – Are you on board?'



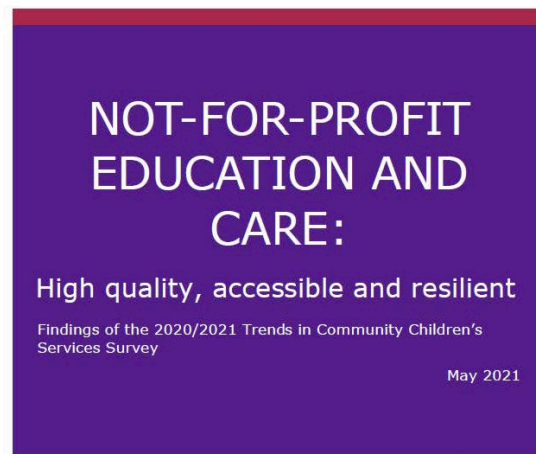
Federal election campaign 'Quality Children's Services Now!'

2012 National ACCS conference 'Change and Leadership – Who is the Ringmaster?'



Trends In Community Children's Services Survey wave 1

- 2013 TICCSS wave 2
- 2014 TICCSS wave 3
- 2017 TICCSS wave 4
- 2020 TICCSS wave 5
- 2021 TICCSS wave 6



ACCS published 'ACCS Policy Platform for the 2021 or 2022 Federal Election' calling for:

- Investment in workforce
- Ongoing commitment to the National Quality Framework
- At least 2 days per week of subsidised high quality early childhood education and care
- Fully subsidised care for children and families experiencing vulnerability

ACCS published an updated policy 'ACCS Policy on Accessible and Affordable Child Care'

'TICCSS In Context' tracing the powerful contribution of our evidence based advocacy for full implementation of the quality reforms.

2022 40th Anniversary Celebration

Federal election campaign

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