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MEDIA RELEASE
Early Years Workforce Strategy
An overarching framework to support early childhood educators

The Chair of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood, the Hon. Peter Collier MLC, today announced the release of the Early Years Workforce Strategy.

The Strategy is an important document which sets out for the first time how all Governments will support the early childhood education and care workforce to gain the skills needed to continue to provide Australian children with the best start to life. It reflects a commitment by governments to address the immediate priorities for the early childhood education and care workforce, while at the same time working towards a broader long-term strategy with a focus on supporting more integrated ways of working across the early childhood development sector.

“We know that the first four years are an important stage in a child’s development and that high quality early education and care from skilled and competent educators is critical to ensure children get the most from their early years,” said Minister Collier.

The Strategy supports the workforce for all early childhood education and care services including long day care, family day care and in home care, occasional care and preschools, whether stand alone or operating within schools. It is also relevant to outside school hours care and vacation care.

“The release of the Early Years Workforce Strategy is further evidence of all Australian governments’ commitment to ensuring that Australian children will continue to receive access to high quality care,” said Minister Collier.

The Strategy focuses on supporting the 2020 workforce vision as set out in the Council of Australian Government’s (COAG’s) National Early Childhood Development Strategy, that by 2020 all children have the best start in life to create a better future for both themselves and for the nation.

The Commonwealth and each state and territory government have committed to developing their implementation plan which outlines the steps that will be undertaken to support people to join the early education and care workforce and to get the qualifications and skills they need to support children from diverse backgrounds and with differing needs.

Further information and copies of the Early Years Workforce Strategy and implementation plans can be accessed on the Australian Government Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations website, <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Earlychildhood/Pages/default.aspx>

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