



## Early Learning Association Australia calls for systemic, national change across the sector

Thursday 3 July 2025

Early Learning Association Australia (ELAA) is deeply saddened by the recent news of the actions of individuals in the sector, and is calling on the State and Federal Government for more robust, consistent and clearer approaches to safeguard and protect children.

These events highlight the urgent need for systemic change across the early learning sector.

We know that the majority of the childcare and early learning workforce are good people who care deeply about the safety and wellbeing of the children in their care, and who are distressed by this recent news.

Incidents like this highlight that, while we are lucky to live in a country that does more than most to protect its most vulnerable, the system isn't working as it should and needs to be addressed for the safety of our children.

ELAA is calling for:

- **Consistent national standards:** Clear, consistent national positions on mandatory reporting, child safe reporting and training across all jurisdictions. We need a high quality system across all jurisdictions that is appropriately managed to reduce duplication and confusion across national and state systems.
- **Expanded training coverage:** Broadening child safe reporting and training to help staff, volunteers, contractors and students have the confidence and competence to identify and report problematic behaviour in both children and staff. This needs to be done in partnership with the sexual assault sector.
- **Support for services to implement incoming changes:** Resources need to be allocated to services that require extra support (low revenue and not-for-profit services) to ensure potential changes are implemented in a safe and sustainable way. For example training and backfill support and funding as well as financial support for technology purchases.

ELAA supports and continues to advocate for:

- **Enhanced monitoring systems:** A comprehensive review of the Working with Children Check (WWCC) system to enable real-time notification of any breaches or cancellations of an individual's approval to work with children.
- **National registration framework:** A national registration system that works alongside police and early childhood providers to ensure only appropriate people can work with children.

# Media Release



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Any changes recommended at a state or federal level need to be implemented safely and sustainably, with the right support for all services to continue to prioritise the quality of care and the safety of children in their care.

We will continue to work with both state and federal governments and advocate for these changes on behalf of our members.

**For more information on ELAA and to arrange an interview with a spokesperson, contact:**

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