



ELAA commends the Victorian Government on Rapid Child Safety Review but urges Commonwealth to go further to protect our children

Wednesday 20 August 2025

Early Learning Association Australia (ELAA) supports the Victorian Government's implementation of the 22 recommendations from the Rapid Child Safety Review. However, the organisation urges the Commonwealth Government to work closely with states and territories to prioritise and address critical issues in the sector to help keep children safe from harm and foster a workforce that is respected, engaged and fulfilled.

Investment in the workforce is critical to prevention, to keep children safe and to build the professional capability of the sector to enable all early learning professionals to uphold their commitment and dedication to the children in their services.

There are key foundational changes in the recommendations that will further protect our children, and ELAA supports these, including:

- The establishment of an independent regulator that sits outside of the Victorian Department of Education, with increased resources and scope to broaden their focus
- The introduction of unannounced checks at services at every 12 months
- Mandatory child safety training and expanding professional support programs
- Changes to the Working with Children Check (WWCC) including mandatory child safety training to obtain a WWCC and the ability of immediate cancellation of a WWCC under legislation to be put before Parliament next week.

However, there are gaps in how key recommendations will be implemented and funded, and ELAA urges the Victorian Government not to let fundamental issues that impact the workforce slip through the cracks.

Dr Karina Davis, CEO of ELAA commended the Victorian Government on the speed and thoroughness of the Review but cautioned that many of the recommendations are reliant on changes being made at a Commonwealth level.

"There are great initiatives in the Review, including the 'four eyes' consideration that ensures two adults are visible to each other while with children. However, the key recommendations that will have a big impact and increase children's safety rely on the Commonwealth Government also advocating for and prioritising these changes," says Dr Davis.



“The Victorian early learning sector is a complex environment, particularly with the separate state funding of kindergarten programs. We want clear direction and assurance from all levels of government that they will properly fund our members to ensure they can support their staff, and can continue to run high quality services with safety and sustainability at the core,” added Dr Davis.

The recommendation to establish a time-limited Early Childhood Reform Commission at a Commonwealth level is a good step forward, however ELAA cautions against burdening an already overloaded workforce with an increased level of engagement across so many issues.

“Health and safety of children is paramount, but so is the occupational health and safety of staff. We are asking so much of our educators and teachers already. We need to ensure they are properly resourced and empowered to focus on their most important job at hand: providing a joyful and safe educational experience for children,” says Dr Davis.

The Review also addressed concerns with how the National Quality Framework is implemented as a result of the funding differences to services between State and Commonwealth, which is echoed by ELAA.

“The National Quality Framework is not enough in itself to ensure quality. We must empower the sector through investment in the workforce. We can do this by increasing awareness of child safety concerns as well as fostering a culture that allows and encourages the reporting of concerning behaviours in both children and adults. This, alongside an investment in the workforce will lead to fundamental change within the sector and a safer environment for all children,” added Dr Davis.

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

Molly Hyndman

0491 709 211

communications@elaa.org.au