



29 November 2007

PRESS RELEASE

CHILDCARE ASSOCIATIONS AUSTRALIA WELCOMES HIGH PROFILE APPOINTMENTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Childcare Associations Australia's (CAA) National President Amanda Morphett today welcomed the appointment of Julia Gillard and Maxine McKew with responsibility for early childhood education and childcare.

"It is most encouraging to see the early childhood and children's services agenda placed with the two most senior Ministers in the new Rudd Labor Government" Ms Morphett said

Ms Morphett said that "The new Rudd Labor Government outlined an ambitious program for young children and their families over the course of the election campaign. These include major initiatives in the area of childcare quality, affordability and access and significant workforce initiatives to underpin the children's services sector long term sustainability."

In addition Labor Government's commitment to fund four year trained early childhood educators within long day care services will go a significant way in ensuring that children's services respond to the latest evidence based research about appropriate early childhood settings. "There has always been a strong emphasis in long day care settings on the provision of developmentally appropriate programs – this initiative will ensure there is appropriately trained staff and proper funding to deliver such programs" Ms Morphett said.

Ms Morphett noted that during Mr Rudd's acceptance speech last Saturday night he commented about the importance of working co-operatively with both private and community providers. "Over seventy per cent of long day care services providers in Australia are private operators. CAA will therefore welcome the opportunity to operate some of the 240 new services and to ensure they are located in areas of greatest need."

CAA looks forward to working with both Ms Gillard and Ms McKew to promote and support viable, high quality services for young children and their families.

 [Rudd Announces New Parliamentary Sec](#) [Audio: 45 sec]

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