

MEDIA RELEASE

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Single Mother Families Australia welcomes new childcare commitments and abolition of the activity test

CEO of Single Mother Families Australia, Terese Edwards said:

“Single Mother Families Australia strongly welcomes the childcare reforms announced by the Prime Minister today. Ensuring quality early years education and care is available to all families should be a high priority for all governments. Yet we know the activity test acts as a disincentive to undertake study or paid work and makes early years education unaffordable. We have long campaigned for the abolition of this test so that single mother families, including those led by First Nations women, can access care for their children. Giving children from low income families access to quality early years education will also help ensure they are ready to succeed at school. We congratulate the Prime Minister on this commitment.

“It marks a significant step toward achieving a childcare guarantee, ensuring that all children across Australia have equitable access to childcare services. Currently, 40,000 families and 124,000 children are locked out of affordable childcare options. By providing accessible childcare, we not only offer peace of mind to mothers but also support their hopes for their children to thrive in a secure environment where they can build friendships, learn new skills, and flourish. The benefits of accessible childcare extend far beyond immediate family needs; they contribute to the long-term development of our society.

“This announcement is particularly crucial for single mothers, who often juggle multiple responsibilities in their busy lives. Guaranteeing childcare options will help these mothers accommodate their study schedules and better align with casual, part-time, and on-call employment. Without access to childcare, women have often been forced to turn down last-minute work shifts, which can be especially distressing. Co-locating childcare centres with primary schools could help alleviate the challenge of double drop-offs for parents. Single mothers who live in regional and rural areas, where there is a lack of childcare services, will be relieved that this issue is a priority for the government, and steps to reduce childcare deserts are underway.

“This announcement builds upon the Government's commitment to valuing, supporting, and assisting those who provide care. It reflects the recommendations of the Women's Economic Equality Taskforce and serves to unlock women's talents and enhance their engagement in the workforce.”

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