



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 3 - EDUCATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

# PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE SECTOR IN NEW SOUTH WALES

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28 March 2025

An Upper House committee will conduct an inquiry into the early childhood education and care (ECEC) sector in New South Wales.

Ms Abigail Boyd MLC, Chair of the committee said: 'Over the past year, reports of serious harm to children within ECEC settings have escalated significantly. Following recent media coverage of numerous reports alleging abuse, neglect, short staffing, non-compliance and widespread misconduct within the sector, industry insiders and concerned parents and carers have called for urgent action to bring these stories into the open and address the gaps and failings in our ECEC sector. That is what we intend to do with this inquiry.'

'Early childhood education and care is a critical public service, entrusted with caring for some of the most vulnerable people in our society. This inquiry will enable the committee to scrutinise the current state of the ECEC sector and whether the current regulatory framework, including the NSW ECEC Regulatory Authority, is fit for purpose.'

'We will investigate the health, safety and wellbeing of children and the quality of education and care being delivered by providers in over 6,000 ECEC services across NSW, in the context of the sector's unique composition and existing models of government funding.'

'High-quality and trusted education and care depends on a highly skilled and valued workforce. That's why this inquiry will examine the safety, pay and conditions of all workers within the sector. It will also consider workers' access to early childhood qualifications, and the availability and affordability of quality training institutions.'

Ms Boyd concluded: 'Families deserve transparency and accountability when it comes to child safety and wellbeing, and that's what our committee hopes to help deliver through this inquiry.'

The committee invites interested individuals and organisations to [lodge a submission](#) by 11.59 pm on Friday 30 May 2025.

The [website](#) contains further information about the inquiry, including committee members and terms of reference.

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Ms Abigail Boyd MLC, on 02 9230 3676*