



MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNTRY KIDS SHOULDN'T MISS OUT: RURAL COALITION CALLS FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE IN REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA

Today, the Access for Every Child Coalition, led by The Parenthood, will launch a joint statement in Canberra, outlining six strategic actions for the Federal Government to transform the landscape of early education in underserved areas, ensuring every child has the foundation they need to succeed.

"The Access for Every Child Coalition advocates for accessible, high-quality early childhood education and care so that every regional, rural and remote child, family and community can thrive," says Maddy Butler, Campaign Director of The Parenthood. "Children in rural and remote areas are not receiving the same opportunities as those in urban centres, which impacts not only their individual development but also the broader community's economic and social wellbeing."

ICPA (Aust.) has joined the coalition and supports the calls for change. Access to quality early childhood education and care is beneficial for regional, rural and remote children's social, emotional and educational development, as well as for sustainable community development and economic stability. **ICPA (Aust.)** understands the significant influence that equitable access to early education can have on a child's future prospects and on the resilience of communities at large.

"Early childhood education and care access is necessary for communities to thrive. When parents and carers do not have accessible childcare for their children, their ability to work is severely compromised, which affects the community, local businesses and essential services," **ICPA (Aust.) Vice President, Julia Broad** explains.

"The ICPA has long advocated for equitable access to education in our regions, and The Parenthood's report highlights the urgent needs of our most isolated families. We welcome their joint statement and call for immediate action to implement strong public management of the ECEC system, provide supply-side subsidies in rural and remote areas, and enhance workforce training. The reality for our rural families is clear, and we must act now to support their educational needs," said Broad.

With over 50 partners, the Access for Every Child Coalition will release a joint statement [here](#) today at Parliament House, calling on the Federal Government to implement six actions to ensure all children in regional, rural and remote areas receive equitable access to early education:

1. Implement strong public management of the early childhood education and care (ECEC) system in collaboration with state and territory governments
2. Offer a range of supply-side subsidies for ECEC providers in rural and remote areas
3. Invest in quality Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled integrated early years services in rural and remote areas
4. Implement a regional, rural and remote national workforce strategy including culturally safe training for First Nations educators
5. Improve family day care and in home care provision
6. Provide interim solutions

“Every child, regardless of where they live, deserves access to quality education. The Parenthood’s report uncovers the unsettling reality of education in our regions, highlighting the significant disparities faced by our most isolated families. The ICPA has been advocating to address these issues on a national level and, alongside our partners at The Parenthood, we call for urgent and immediate action to ensure that all children have the educational opportunities they deserve,” said Broad.

The coalition, comprising a diverse group of stakeholders, is committed to working alongside government at all levels to implement these critical reforms. The campaign’s ultimate goal is to ensure that every child, family and community in Australia, has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their location.

You can find a PDF of the joint statement here: [Joint Statement](#)

Case studies are available upon request.

MEDIA CONTACT:

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A not-for-profit organisation, The Parenthood is Australia’s leading parent advocacy group with a reach of more than 80,000 parents nationally.

The Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association of Australia, (ICPA Aust) is a voluntary, apolitical, national parent organisation, which advocates on behalf of our members for equity of access to an appropriate education for children living in rural and remote Australia.