



# Early Childhood Education and Care

## August 2025- Federal Conference Report

Anne Chater

**Dates:** 30–31 July 2025

**Location:** Adelaide, South Australia

The 54th Annual Federal Conference featured **14 ECEC motions** and **2 supplementary motions**, reflecting the strong commitment of members to improving early childhood education and care across Australia.

### Summary of ECEC Motions and Topics

1. **Pay Parity for Early Childhood Teachers**  
Advocate for pay parity between early childhood teachers and state school teachers, both of whom hold four-year degrees, to improve recruitment and retention.
2. **Targeted Incentives**  
Implement targeted incentives to attract and retain early childhood educators.
3. **Increase In-Home Care and Child Care Subsidy Rates**  
Raise CCS rates for families with no other childcare options and review eligibility criteria.
4. **Tailored In-Home Care for Geographically Isolated Families**  
Develop a more flexible, location-appropriate in-home care system.
5. **Amend In-Home Care Rules for Remote Areas**  
Allow educators in remote areas to:
  - Care for their own children while educating others.
  - Care for children from more than one family at a time.
6. **Ongoing Operational Funding**  
Maintain funding to cover operational costs and logistical needs in the sector.
7. **Legislative Change – Section 5(1) of the Children Education and Care Services National Law**  
Permit early childhood preschool programs on rural and remote school sites for both three- and four-year-olds.
8. **Mobile Early Learning Services**  
Deliver mobile early learning to geographically isolated children aged 0–5 who currently lack access to services.
9. **Universal Access Advocacy**  
Continue advocacy for universal access to early childhood education.
10. **Extension of Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC)**  
Include geographically isolated children enrolled in eligible pre-compulsory early childhood programs.

## Acknowledgement

Congratulations to branches and State Council for submitting these motions. The work invested in preparing case studies, gathering examples, and proposing solutions was invaluable. Federal Council will present these to the Canberra delegation. With ECEC currently a national priority, this is an opportune time to advance these motions.

ECEC remains as vast and challenging as can be the country our members live and work in — and as vital as the opportunities it creates for our “little kids.”

## Leadership and Appreciation

Special thanks to **Julia Board**, who has led the ECEC Portfolio with dedication over the past four years. Her contribution has been instrumental in progressing these issues.

## Of Note

It was an honour to welcome **Mr Blair Boyer**, South Australian Minister for Education, Training and Skills, to the Conference. His engagement with the issues raised promises to deliver tangible outcomes for ECEC in South Australia.