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Second wave in Victoria changes the game for childcare nationally

As Victoria scrambles to adjust to stage four restrictions in metropolitan Melbourne and the return of stage three restrictions elsewhere, the question of how to keep the childcare sector afloat remains a national one.

"The measures taken to date by the Australian Government to increase flexibility in the Child Care Subsidy Scheme (CSS) through the introduction of the Transition Payment were welcomed," says ELAA CEO David Worland. "But circumstances in Victoria are now such that childcare services will quickly become unviable without additional support."

ELAA believes one of the key actions needed to sure up the childcare sector for the duration of the pandemic is that the Australian Government's Transition Payment for childcare providers must be increased and finely calibrated.

"This could be done through the introduction of a tiered structure for the Transition Payment that reflects changes in attendance as a result of the re-introduction of stage 3 restrictions in regional Victoria and new limitations to permitted workers and vulnerable children as part of stage 4 restrictions in metropolitan Melbourne," said Mr Worland.

"While it's Victoria that is on the front line in the battle with COVID-19 at the moment, the virus will be with all of Australia for some time so we need the ability, at the national level, to support the sector through Transition Payments in a timely way. We were pleased that Australia's Education Minister, Dan Tehan, announced this afternoon that the government will be working on further arrangements to support the childcare sector and we eagerly await further announcements on this matter from the Minister tomorrow."

For more information or to arrange an interview with ELAA CEO, David Worland, contact James Gardener 0413 483 182

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ELAA is the national peak body for not-for-profit providers of early childhood education and care. Our vision is Excellence in Early Learning for Every Child. www.elaa.org.au