

## Secure Jobs, Better Pay Bill will make early childhood sector stronger

2 December 2022

Early Learning Association Australia has welcomed the passing of the Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Bill 2022 in the Federal Parliament late yesterday evening.

The legislation makes it easier for smaller employers to engage in workplace relations by providing supported bargaining for sectors such as Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC). It also simplifies processes for agreements to run across multiple enterprises.

“The passing of the Bill marks another step forward for early childhood educators toward pay and conditions that reflect their skills, professionalism and the fact that they are such critical influences on the futures of Australian children,” said ELAA Director Advocacy and Member solutions, Megan O’Connell.

“I was in Canberra on Tuesday for the second Workforce Crisis Summit with Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector employers, stakeholders, unions and peak bodies. We talked about the importance of the Federal Government committing to co-fund early educator wages with the states. The passing of the new IR legislation today means we can start to plan for the shaping what our workforce agreements can look like.”

This week ELAA has also lodged a submission to the Employment Taskforce in Treasury on The Employment White Paper. The White Paper builds on the outcomes from the Jobs and Skills Summit and ELAA has provided feedback to the Taskforce on the Terms of Reference relevant to the ECEC sector. Our submission proposes achievable solutions to key challenges including:

- incentivising Australians, especially women, to return to the workforce through greater access to affordable and high-quality early childhood education and care
- tackling the problem of ‘childcare deserts’
- removing barriers to ECEC for First Nations families and other vulnerable parts of the community posed by the work / study activity test
- ensuring sustainable numbers of ECEC qualified teachers and educators by addressing pay, conditions, and professional support.

The Submission can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#)

For more information or to arrange an interview with ELAA contact James Gardener 0413 483 182.

**ENDS**

*ELAA is the national peak body for not-for-profit providers of early childhood education and care. Our vision is Excellence and Equity in Early Childhood Education and Care. [www.elaa.org.au](http://www.elaa.org.au)*