

FDCA ELECTION
COMMITMENT REQUESTS
**MAJOR PARTY
RESPONSES**

FAMILY DAY CARE AUSTRALIA






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Family Day Care Australia (FDCA) has requested that the major parties commit to FDCA's Election Commitment Requests below, under the six key policy areas of Affordability and Women's Workforce Participation, Women's Economic Security, Regional Economic Development, Flexibility, ECEC Workforce Support and Accessibility.







Below are the responses received which will help in informing members on polling day as to which party will best support the family day care sector beyond the







upcoming federal election. The responses have been provided by:

- The Hon Stuart Robert MP, Acting Minister for Education and Youth and Member for Fadden
- The Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education and Development and Member for Kingston
- Mr Adam Bandt MP, Leader of the Australian Greens and Member for Melbourne

Policy Area	Commitment Request	The Coalition	The Australian Labor Party	The Greens
1. Affordability and Women's Workforce Participation	Raise the hourly CCS fee cap rate for family day care in line with the calculation afforded to centre-based care services so that it more accurately reflects the cost of providing family day care.	 <p>Commitment Indication: No</p> <p>The Government provides more than \$10 billion per annum in targeted financial support through the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and related programs to assist Australian families with the costs of child care.</p> <p>In relation to the CCS hourly rate caps, I note that the Government introduced these to ensure a more sustainable child care system and addressed inflationary problems that existed under the previous child care fee assistance system. The CCS hourly rate caps are indexed in July each year and do not limit the prices providers may charge but instead provide Australian families and a provider with a reference point as to what Government considers a high fee service.</p>	 <p>Commitment Indication: Other</p> <p>Labor will improve the affordability of early learning. We will increase the child care subsidy rate for 96 per cent of families, which will let families work the hours they want and need.</p> <p>Labor will also ask the ACCC to conduct a market study into the sector. This study will look at the cost structures and drivers in the sector, staff and educator costs, and the viability and profitability of the sector.</p> <p>As part of this study, the costs and viability of family day care will be examined.</p>	 <p>Commitment Indication: Yes</p> <p>The Greens understand the current subsidy needs to be reviewed and raised in consultation with providers, educators and their unions, and families who access the service. We commit to reviewing and raising the current hourly rate of the subsidy in consultation with the Family Day Care educators and the sector in general.</p>

Policy Area	Commitment Request	The Coalition	The Australian Labor Party	The Greens
2. Women's economic security	Commit to the provision of a direct funding support program for family day care approved services to assist in the recruitment, induction and training of new family day care educators.	<p> Commitment Indication: No</p> <p>The Government acknowledges that further work needs to be done to develop, recognise and support a high quality early childhood workforce. For this reason, the Government is investing significantly in workforce-boosting initiatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through the Graduates package, where the cost of an early childhood teaching qualification has been reduced by 42 per cent, and • through provision of the JobTrainer Fund to deliver free or training places in areas of national need, including for child care qualifications. 	<p> Commitment Indication: Other</p> <p>Labor in government will work with FDCA and the sector to identify existing small business, apprentice and training support programs across government that could support family day care services and educators and make any appropriate changes to these programs.</p>	<p> Commitment Indication: Other</p> <p>The Greens will work with Family Day Care educators and the sector to reduce barriers faced by the sector in the recruitment, induction and training of new family day care educators, including through the provision of direct funding support.</p>
	Commit to the provision of a direct funding support program for new family day care educators to assist in overcoming some of the financial barriers to entry into the sector in establishing their micro-business.	<p> Commitment Indication: No</p> <p>*See above response.</p>	<p> Commitment Indication: Other</p> <p>Labor in government will work with FDCA and the sector to identify existing small business, apprentice and training support programs across government that could support family day care services and educators and make any appropriate changes to these programs.</p>	<p> Commitment Indication: Other</p> <p>The Greens are committed to working with Family Day Care educators and the sector to reduce the barriers faced by new family day care educators.</p>

Policy Area	Commitment Request	The Coalition	The Australian Labor Party	The Greens
3. Regional Economic Development	Work with FDCA and the family day care sector to explore options to increase viability and incentivise family day care service growth in rural and remote areas.	 <p>Commitment Indication: Yes</p> <p>The appointment of a Regional Education Commissioner is part of Government's response to the National Regional, Rural and Remote Tertiary Education Strategy (Naphine Review) and the role will also extend to primary, secondary and early childhood education matters. The Government has committed \$6 million over four years to establish this role to improve regional education outcomes and reduce the disparity between city and country student outcomes.</p> <p>The Government welcomes your interest in working further with the to explore options to increase viability and incentivise Family Day Care service growth in rural and remote areas, and welcomes your continued engagement through key consultation forums such as the Early Childhood Education and Care Reference Group.</p>	 <p>Commitment Indication: Yes</p> <p>Family day care provides a vital role in supporting rural and regional communities, often where there is no alternate care option.</p> <p>Labor in government looks forward to working with FDCA and the sector on ways to boost the viability of family day care, particularly in rural and regional areas.</p>	 <p>Commitment Indication: Yes</p> <p>The Greens recognise the important role Family Day Care providers fulfil, especially in rural and remote areas. We commit to working with the sector to increase viability for services, especially those operating in rural and remote areas and in areas of disadvantage.</p>
4. Flexibility	Reform funding frameworks to reflect the higher costs of providing non-standard hours care through provision of an additional loading of 20% to the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) fee cap for family day care undertaken in non-standard hours, overnights and weekends.	 <p>Commitment Indication: No</p> <p>*See response to Commitment Request 1 above.</p>	 <p>Commitment Indication: Other</p> <p>Labor will ask the ACCC to conduct a market study into the sector. This study will look at the cost structures and drivers in the sector, staff and educator costs, and the viability and profitability of the sector.</p> <p>As part of this study, the costs and viability of family day care will be examined.</p>	 <p>Commitment Indication: Other</p> <p>The Greens will work with the Family Day Care sector and educators to ensure non-standard hours care is funded in line with the costs of providing this care, ensuring proper earnings for educators and in line with community expectations, such as those of families using non-standard hours of care.</p>

Policy Area	Commitment Request	The Coalition	The Australian Labor Party	The Greens
5. ECEC Workforce Support	Work with FDCA and the family day care sector to implement specific strategies outlined in Focus Area 2 (Attraction and Retention) of the draft National Workforce Strategy to promote growth in the family day care sector nationally.	 <p>Commitment Indication: Yes</p> <p>The National Children’s Education and Care Workforce Strategy targets some of the more complex and long–standing issues associated with the attraction, development and retention of a high-quality ECEC workforce. An implementation plan to guide collaboration between all stakeholders to achieve the National Children’s Education and Care Workforce Strategy’s aims is being developed by ACECQA and will be delivered to governments in mid-2022.</p> <p>The Government is actively considering its contribution as part of the implementation planning process and I encourage FDCA to continue to provide advice to ACECQA on the opportunities within the Family Day Care sector.</p>	 <p>Commitment Indication: Yes</p> <p>Labor supports the National Children’s Education and Care Workforce Strategy and will work with the sector on an implementation plan.</p>	 <p>Commitment Indication: Yes</p> <p>The Greens accept recommendations to attract and retain educators in all types of child care and early learning settings, as outlined in the Ten Year National Children’s Education and Care Workforce Strategy. The Greens believe the actions and initiatives outlined in the strategy should be implemented across the entire early childhood education and care sector, including Family Day Care.</p>
6. Accessibility	Review the efficacy of the Inclusion Support Program (ISP) in supporting family day care services that care for children with additional needs, with specific attention given to utilisation by the family day care sector and take-up of the Inclusion Development Fund (IDF) Family Day Care (FDC) Top Up payment.	 <p>Commitment Indication: Other</p> <p>The Refreshed ISP Guidelines in March 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> introduced changes to eligibility requirements to include a targeted cohort of children with additional needs under six years of age expanded eligibility to children participating in a preschool program in Centre Based Day Care increased the timeframe for Immediate Educator from 8 to 12 weeks and from 100 to 150 hours increased scope for approval of Innovative Solutions Support. <p>Eligibility for the IDF Subsidy was broadened from children with disability to include children with other additional needs, such as those with serious medical or health conditions, including mental health and children presenting with challenging and trauma-related behaviours.</p>	 <p>Commitment Indication: Other</p> <p>Labor will have a look at how the Inclusion Support program is working and how it can be improved.</p>	 <p>Commitment Indication: Yes</p> <p>The Greens are committed to ensuring funding for children with additional support needs matches the actual cost of providing this support. We will review the efficacy and inclusion of ISP, in consultation with all types of early childhood education and care providers, including Family Day care educators.</p>