

Media Release

Thursday 6 November 2008



Children's Services
Since 1895

Largest not-for-profit provider offers to assist in the wake of ABC collapse.

Following the announcement that private childcare provider ABC Learning has gone into receivership, not-for-profit provider, KU Children's Services, has expressed concern for the children and families that will be affected.

"Given that around 25% of childcare places are currently provided by ABC, any closure of centres will almost certainly see some families without access to childcare," KU's CEO, Sheridan Dudley commented.

KU has been providing quality early childhood education and care since 1895 and now operates more than 150 services including long day care, preschools and occasional care. As Australia's largest and most respected community-based provider KU is in a unique position to offer some assistance to parents looking for alternative childcare.

"The primary concern for parents is ensuring continuity of care for their children," Ms Dudley said. "As a large provider, KU is ready and well placed to do all we can to assist families. We are already taking action to ensure that as many places as possible are available in KU centres."

"KU believes that every family should have access to affordable, high-quality education and care for their children. Increasingly KU parents are reassured to know that our long term commitment and focus is on the children, not on the profits or share price, with every dollar we earn being invested in our centres," reported Ms Dudley.

As well as taking action to increase its own places KU has also contacted the relevant State and Federal Ministers to offer assistance in the search for solutions for ABC families and staff.

"We believe this is a time for the sector to work together to support families and children who have been affected and we hope we will be able to play a further role in providing support," said Ms Dudley.

"While the focus right now must be on meeting needs in the short term, in the longer term we would encourage the Government to rethink the policy settings that have allowed a corporatised child care provider, whose business is supported by government subsidies, to amass such a huge share of the market with such an unacceptable outcome."

KU centres are now taking enrolments. Parents looking for a centre in their local area should visit www.ku.com.au and click on the 'Find a KU Centre' link.

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