

Media Release

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Children's Services
Since 1895

“Learn from ABC: Childcare is not a commodity” says largest not-for-profit provider

Australia's largest not for profit child care provider, KU Children's Services, expressed alarm this morning over reports that the Receiver of ABC Learning was already receiving expressions of interest to buy parts of the failed company. KU says further privatisation of ABC centres is not the answer.

“We are calling on the Government to urgently step in and ensure that ABC is not simply broken up and sold off to large corporations which see child care as a “business” rather than as a key community service and the foundation for the early education and care of young children,” said Sheridan Dudley, CEO of KU.

KU believes that the not-for-profit and community-based providers who have reliably delivered quality early childhood education and care for many years have a great deal to offer in developing and implementing a solution to the imbalance in childcare provision in Australia.

“Child care is a not a commodity to be bought and sold and to perpetuate an Australian childcare sector so heavily dominated by corporatised providers might easily result in another similar problem in a few years,” Ms Dudley commented.

“The Government would rightly not accept such a situation if it related to the education and care of primary school children and nor should they do so in respect of young children. It is time to change the entire policy settings for the provision of child care in Australia and now is an ideal time to do it.

“I have written to the Government Ministers several times over the past few weeks offering our assistance in ensuring continuity of care for ABC families. As Australia's largest not-for-profit provider and previous holder of the Government Defence Child Care Contract I am surprised and concerned we have not even had the courtesy of a response,” said Ms Dudley.

ENDS

Interview requests of Ms Dudley and general media enquiries should be directed to:

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