

## Gabrielle Sinclair CEO, ACECQA

### Opening Statement

Chair (Senator Smith), thank you for the invitation to appear before the Committee and the opportunity to make a brief opening statement.

Following the December estimates hearings, we have received and responded to a range of questions relating to staffing waivers, serious incidents, child safety and transparency measures. Please let us know if there is anything we can add or clarify about those responses.

We are also on track to deliver the first stage of the National Early Childhood Worker Register, which was made mandatory for use by all services under the National Quality Framework from the end of this month, through the passing of the Early Childhood Legislation Amendment (Child Safety) Bill 2025 in December.

We continue to strengthen transparency and awareness of our regulatory system and supporting family decision-making through our StartingBlocks.gov.au website. Families now have access to compliance information and enforcement actions taken against services over the previous two years. There are now 6 types of enforcement actions that are published on our StartingBlocks website, these include:

- **approval amended** – whether a provider or service approval has been amended
- **condition imposed** – whether a condition has been imposed on the provider or service approval to require them to comply with specific requirements in addition to the National Law
- **compliance notice issued** – a formal instruction to providers and services to make sure they are aware of their responsibilities, the requirements they haven't met, what they need to fix and by when
- **emergency action notice issued** – a notice requiring them to fix serious safety issues at a service immediately
- **enforceable undertaking issued** – a legally binding agreement with a provider or an individual which sets out what they agree to do or stop doing to comply with the National Law
- **notice of suspension issued** – whether a provider or service has been suspended

This builds on the information we have already published about operational conditions placed on services and providers by regulatory authorities, identifying the provider that operates each service, as well as the date of the last regulatory authority's visit to a service.

We are pleased to continue working with all governments to implement these and other wide-ranging reforms to strengthen oversight, accountability, and transparency to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of children attending services under the National Quality Framework.

Thank you.