



THE SENATE

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT REFERENCES COMMITTEE

Quality and safety of Australia's early childhood education and care system

**PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday 24 February 2026**

**Parliament House
Committee Room 2S1, Canberra**

Time	Witness
10.00 am	Family Day Care Australia (<i>Submission 73</i>) Mr Andrew Paterson, Chief Executive Officer Mr Michael Farrell, General Manager, Advocacy and Engagement
10.30 am	Playgroup Australia (<i>Submission 32</i>) Ms Patricia O'Donovan, Chief Executive Officer
11.00 am	Productivity Commission (<i>Submission 44</i>) Mr Martin Stokie, Commissioner Ms Miriam Veisman-Apter, Assistant Commissioner
11.30 am	Break
11.45 am	NPY Women's Council (<i>Submission 76</i>)
12.15 pm	Minderoo Foundation/Thrive by Five (<i>Submission 85</i>) Dr Amy Graham, Senior Adviser, Valuing the Early Years
12.45 pm	Australian Paediatric Society (via videoconference) (<i>Submission 108</i>) Dr Peter Goss, Chair, Diabetes and Allergy
1.15 pm	Break
2.00 pm	Centre for Independent Studies (<i>Submission 92</i>) Mr Blaise Joseph, Director of Education Program Ms Trisha Jha, Research Fellow in the Education Program
2.30 pm	Australian Services Union (<i>Submission 79</i>) Dr Karen Douglas, Research and Policy Adviser Ms Stephanie Chiron, Early Childhood Education and Care Organiser Ms Valentina Olivares, Early Childhood Education and Care Organiser Evan Grey, Union Delegate Inner West Council, Early Childhood Educator Mrs Margaret Harrison, Union Delegate Campbelltown City Council, Outside School Hours Care Service Coordinator Mrs Cassandra Summers, Union Delegate Singleton Council, Supervisor Mobile Preschool
3.00 pm	Australian Skills Quality Authority (via videoconference) (<i>Submission 68</i>) Ms Saxon Rice, Chief Executive Officer Ms Vidoshi Jana, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Committee Chair: Senator Maria Kovacic

Committee Secretary: Gerry McNally

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3.30 pm	The Parenthood (via videoconference) (<i>Submission 41</i>) Ms Georgie Dent, Chief Executive Officer
4.00 pm	<i>Adjournment</i>