



THE SENATE

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT REFERENCES COMMITTEE

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

**PUBLIC HEARING
Monday 23 February 2026**

**Leichhardt Room
Hotel Grand Chancellor, Brisbane**

Time	Witness
8.30 am	Goodstart Early Learning (<i>Submission 83</i>) Dr Roslyn Baxter, Chief Executive Officer Lady Gowrie Queensland (<i>Submission 45</i>) Mr Julian Smart, Acting Chief Executive Officer
9.15 am	Affinity Education Group (<i>Submission 31</i>) Mr Glen Hurley, Chief Executive Officer Mrs Nicola Page, Chief Risk and Quality Officer
10.00 am	Break
10.10 am	The University of Queensland (<i>Submission 24</i>) Laureate Professor Karen Thorpe, ARC Laureate Professor
10.45 am	The Future Care Project (via teleconference) (<i>Submission 60</i>) Ms Angela Cochrane, Founder For Parents (<i>Submission 75</i>) Ms Cecilia Cobb, Co-Founder
11.45 am	Childcare Choice Mrs Jen Fleming, Spokesperson Mrs Madeline Simmonds, Spokesperson Mrs Mary Winkels, Spokesperson and Care Economy Consultant
12.15 pm	Lunch
12.55 pm	Queensland Family and Child Commission (<i>Submission 10</i>) Mr Luke Twyford, Principal Commissioner Ms Erin Glapiak, Executive Director Strategy and Impact Ms Anne Edwards, Executive Director Child Safe Organisations
1.35 pm	Queensland Department of Education Ms Tania Porter, Deputy Director-General - Early Childhood, Regulation and Communication
2.15 pm	Adjournment

Committee Chair: Senator Maria Kovacic

Committee Secretary: Gerry McNally

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