



Australian Children's  
Education & Care  
Quality Authority

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16 October 2020

The Hon James Merlino  
Chair, Education Council  
PO Box 202  
Carlton South Vic 3053

Dear Chair

Thank you for the interim Letter of Expectation 2020-21 outlining the Education Council's priorities for the Australian Children's Education and Care Authority (ACECQA) from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

We are pleased to have met the expectations of Council under the previous letter and thank the Council for acknowledging our efforts, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time of uncertainty, we have continued to deliver all our functions, and worked closely with governments, regulatory authorities, service providers, peak bodies and higher education institutions to support the continuation of high quality education and care for children and their families.

We were particularly pleased by Education Council's endorsement of the findings of the independent review of ACECQA and to hear that our government partners and the sector share the view that our work is integral to the success of the National Quality Framework and the national regulatory system.

The resulting decision by the Australian Government to provide us with ongoing operational funding from 1 July 2020 allows us to take a longer term approach to our work, to enhance the functions we are delivering under the National Law, particularly in relation to developing new programs to support governments and the sector, as well as to help families make informed choices.

As your letter notes, the sector is facing many challenges and a key focus of our work will be to help governments and the sector continue to realise high quality education and care within a changing setting that requires both flexibility and guidance.

Given the shorter, less detailed nature of this interim letter, we are developing a high level forward work plan for consultation with our government partners, and for submission to Education Council in December 2020. The plan details the work we will undertake to support the aims and priorities outlined by Council.

We look forward to continuing our work with our many sector and government stakeholders to support high quality early childhood education and care, and promote children's development, health, safety and well-being.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Judy Hebblethwaite". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

Judy Hebblethwaite  
Board Chair