

## NECA MEMBER COVID-19 UPDATE

### LATEST FEDERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 1. NATIONAL STIMULUS PACKAGE UPDATE

##### **Early Childhood Care Relief Package**

Around one million families are set to receive free child care during the coronavirus pandemic under a new \$1.6 billion package introduced by the Federal Government.

Under the plan, the Government will pay 50 per cent of the sector's fee revenue up to the existing hourly rate cap based on a point in time before parents started withdrawing their children in large numbers, but only so long as services remain open and do not charge families for care.

- The funding will apply from 6 April based on the number of children who were in care during the fortnight leading into 2 March, whether or not they are attending services.
- Until the payments commence, the Federal Government is allowing services to waive gap fees for families who keep their children home, and families will be able to use the 20 extra absence days the government has funded for coronavirus related reasons without giving up their place in a child care centre.
- Families that have terminated enrolment since 17 February, should contact their centre and re-start arrangements. This will not require a child to attend care and does not require payment of a gap fee. Re-starting enrolment will enable families to hold child care places during the coronavirus lockdown.

### LATEST STATE AND TERRITORY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contact your local NECA Chapter website for regular updates.