

# HEAR OUR VOICE POLICY STATEMENTS

## CHILDCARE

Hear Our Voice believes that all Australian families should have access to affordable and high quality childcare.

Hear Our Voice supports initiatives and programs which improve childcare access and affordability, particularly for people on low and middle incomes.

Hear Our Voice supports increased funding for children with special needs, and we believe parents and carers of children with special needs should have easy access to quality and affordable care.

Hear Our Voice believes that childcare workers are generally underpaid and we support an appropriate salary increase that reflects the important work they do.

Hear Our Voice believes there should be a range of choice for parents and carers, and childcare should be available in easy access to peoples' home and work locations.

Hear Our Voice supports increased funding to childcare facilities in areas of growth and high demand.

Hear Our Voice supports incentive systems to encourage workplaces to offer in-house not-for-profit childcare to their employees, and to childcare facilities who offer extended care to families who need it.

Hear Our Voice supports initiatives which improve standards of childcare and professional development opportunities for childcare workers.

Hear Our Voice believes appropriate penalties should be imposed on childcare providers who breach accreditation standards, and we believe that childcare services should be regularly monitored, including unannounced visits to childcare facilities by an authorized agency, to ensure the safety and well-being of children is not compromised.

Hear Our Voice supports the use of expert early childhood research to enhance national standards of childcare.