



MEDIA RELEASE

Amanda Rishworth MP Federal Member for Kingston

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More support for child care centres in the South!

Amanda Rishworth MP, Federal Member for Kingston has welcomed **\$55, 000** in Australian Government funding to assist child care centres in the South to improve the quality of their services.

Ms Rishworth said “This funding will improve outcomes for the most vulnerable children in our local community by providing support directly to services operating in areas of highest need.

“**Eleven local services** here in the South will be eligible to access a grant of up to \$5000 to help them improve the quality of their service so as to meet the National Quality Standard.”

Ms Rishworth said that the Australian Government is implementing a National Quality Framework for child care centres, to ensure children get the best quality care and education in the critical first five years of life.

The National Quality Framework will improve staff to child ratios so that each child receives more individual care and attention. The Framework will also require staff to have formal qualifications so they are better equipped to lead the activities that help children learn and develop.

Ms Rishworth said “This new funding for the South can be used for a range of things, including hiring relief staff so that child care workers can attend professional development courses or upgrade their qualifications.

“Centres might also choose to spend the money on new educational play equipment for children or to improve the quality and safety of play spaces.

“When it comes to child care, even a small amount of funding can go a long way to helping services provide the best start in life for Australian children.”

Melissa Alyward, **Director of Emu Community Children’s Centre in Morphett Vale** said “We are so grateful for this funding- it presents us with an amazing opportunity to continue and improve our services and to benefit children in the local community more widely.”

The Australian Government recognises just how important education is during a child’s early years and has more than doubled funding to the sector, providing \$20 billion in early childhood education and care over the next 4 years.