

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

NOTICE OF MOTION

MR EMERSON: I give notice that I shall move – That this Assembly:

1) notes that:

- a) the ACT reported the highest rate of serious incidents in early childhood education and care services in 2023-24, with 235 serious incidents per 100 approved services – far above the national average of 148 serious incidents per 100 approved services;
- b) greater transparency regarding the nature of these incidents could clarify whether this high rate is a consequence of a higher frequency of serious incidents or of better reporting practices;
- c) parents in the ACT pay the highest fees in Australia, with the median weekly costs having risen to \$760 in 2024, compared to the national average of \$668;
- d) weekly childcare centre fees in the ACT have risen by \$150 over the last 10 years, after taking inflation into account, and could rise further if more peppercorn leases held by not-for-profit providers are withdrawn by the ACT Government;
- e) Canberran families pay the highest portion of their disposable income on childcare of all states and territories;
- f) community members and educators have raised concerns that the for-profit nature of a large proportion of the early childhood education and care (ECEC) sector may be jeopardising quality of care, particularly following recent reporting of alarming incidents of mismanagement on the part of several major providers;

2) in accordance with standing order 213A, calls on the ACT Government to table:

- a) all documents held by Children's Education and Care Assurance and the ACT Ombudsman from the past five years containing:
 - i) emergency action notices, prohibition notices, suspension notices, compliance notices, show cause notices or other notices or directions served on or regarding ECEC providers under the *Education and Care Services National Law (ACT) Act 2011*;
 - ii) written notices following an incident of decisions to cancel, suspend or continue approval of a service provider;

- iii) notifications to parents of children enrolled at an education and care service about the suspension or cancellation of provider approval;
 - iv) documents relating to enforceable undertakings regarding early childhood education and care; and
 - v) documents relating to suspected, alleged or actual criminal conduct, or risk of significant harm incidents;
- b) all documents provided to brief ministerial offices over the past five years that:
- i) relate to the death, serious injury, or physical or sexual abuse of a child and an ACT ECEC facility or staff;
 - ii) relate to prosecutions of ECEC providers and educators, including in relation to:
 - (1) any recommendations for prosecution for conduct towards a child suspected to be criminal, or other criminal activity related to ECEC provision in the ACT;
 - (2) any recommendations for prosecution of criminal conduct against any ACT ECEC providers and/or staff in such a facility; and
 - (3) any prosecution of any ACT ECEC providers or their employees or contractors;
 - iii) relate to allegations of fraud, money laundering or scams regarding ECEC provision in the ACT;
 - iv) relate to actual or alleged wage underpayment in any ACT ECEC centre; and
- 3) notwithstanding standing order 213A:
- a) allows for targeted redaction of individuals' names, birthdates and contact details; and
 - b) requests that these documents be produced within three months.

Thomas Emerson MLA
23 June 2025