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Media release for immediate distribution

C&K urges flexibility to ensure accessibility

With the childcare sector undergoing major review, Queensland's largest early childhood education and care provider C&K says flexibility is the key to accessibility.

In its submission to the government's Productivity Commission Inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning, C&K revealed that families strongly value the quality of their child's early education, however need flexible options to suit their needs.

C&K CEO Michael Tizard said that one size doesn't fit all in modern Australian society. Different families need different models to choose from, without having to contend with a complicated and inequitable rebate system.

"At C&K our focus is on high quality early childhood education and care and we're currently achieving that predominantly with the traditional kindergarten model, where an early childhood program is taught to children part-time during school terms," he said.

"We realise the need to further develop other, more flexible models to suit the needs of different families and communities, including extended kindergarten hours, long day care, outside school hours care and integrated services.

"C&K believes early childhood education and care subsidies should be based on a single payment system across all service types.

"If the government can provide greater flexibility in the rebate and fee system, then this will provide opportunities to offer flexibility in service types and operating hours."

Another key point in the 16 recommendations contained in C&K's submission includes improving universal access and participation for vulnerable and at risk children.

"Universal access to quality early childhood education and care services for all children from birth will bring life-long benefits for the individual child, their family and society," Mr Tizard said.

"This is particularly important for those living in poverty, children with disabilities and children with additional needs.

"We also need to boost participation rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. "

"C&K has a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Unit which provides support to 23 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services throughout Queensland and we are also the lead agent in the integrated child and family centre at Mackay.



"We believe the best way to boost participation rates is through additional funding for the dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kindergarten models and integrated child and family centres incorporating early childhood education and care, early childhood health, family support and parenting programs."

"C&K strongly supports the government's Productivity Commission Inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning and we hope it drives reform that ensures the best interests of children come first."

To view C&K's submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry, please click [here](#).

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