



STATEMENT

3 SEPTEMBER 2021

PRIORITY VACCINE ACCESS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE WORKFORCE

The Children First Alliance welcomes today's announcement that early childhood educators and Out of Hours School staff (OSHC) staff will be given priority access to the Pfizer vaccine.

Our early childhood educators and OSHC staff are essential workers and play a crucial role in supporting our community during the COVID19 pandemic.

Prioritising the early childhood education and care workforce to access the Pfizer vaccine recognises that they have one of the most important jobs in our community, educating and caring for our children.

Providing priority access to the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) workforce at both Early Learning Centres and OSHC provides assurances for their health and safety and places an additional layer of protection to the children accessing early education and care services across the Territory.

The Alliance looks forward to receiving more details from the ACT Government.

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Co-Chairs Lee Maiden, CEO, Communities@Work and Frances Crimmins, CEO, YWCA Canberra are available for interview.

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About the Children First Alliance: The ACT Children First Alliance (the Alliance) is a network of longstanding for purpose providers of children's service in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), including early learning centres (ELCs), family day care, preschool and outside school hours care. The Alliance was established to develop and communicate a shared vision for ECEC in the ACT and to ensure that all children have access to ECEC. The Alliance has ten members: Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT, Capital Region Community Services, Communities@Work, Community Services #1, Goodstart Early Learning ACT, Baringa Early Learning Centre, Northside Community Service, Woden Community Service, YMCA Canberra and YWCA Canberra.

For more information about the Alliance visit: www.childrenfirstalliance.org