



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **“SHAPING FUTURES” RECRUITMENT DRIVE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS**

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The ACT Children’s First Alliance (CFA) has launched the Shaping Futures recruitment campaign to attract early childhood educators in the ACT. The early education and care sector is bursting with career opportunities to inspire young minds and shape the next generation.

The campaign is jointly funded by the CFA and the ACT Government Workforce Attraction Cooperative Grant (WACG) program. The WACG program helps local businesses collaborate to attract the skilled workforce they need to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACT Minister for Early Childhood Development Yvette Berry said early childhood educators undertake vital work influencing social and educational outcomes for future generations.

“The sector has had a really tough couple of years, and I’m so excited to support the Children First Alliance to do this work to help the sector bounce back stronger,” Minister Berry said.

ACT Minister for Skills Chris Steel said that the current workforce shortages were a challenge, but the availability of fee-free training was an opportunity for Canberrans looking to work in early childhood.

“There are great opportunities to get skilled for a rewarding career in supporting the next generation of young children to thrive,” Minister Steel said.

Co-Chair of the Alliance and CEO of Capital Region Community Services, Mandy Green said, “Shaping and inspiring young minds is the greatest honour. For young people looking for a career, or those looking for a career change, you’d be hard-pressed to find anything more fulfilling.”

Early Education and Care is a growing sector with plenty of job and career progression. Alliance members offer job security, satisfaction and professional development and attract highly motivated staff that want to make a difference in their community.

“If you don’t have a qualification already, it is easy to study a nationally recognised qualification from a Certificate III to Bachelor qualifications in early childhood

education. There are also traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities where you can earn while you learn,” said Simon Bennett, Co-Chair of the Alliance and Executive Manager, Community Services, Anglicare NSW South NSW West & ACT.

The ACT Children First Alliance is a network of longstanding “for purpose” providers of children’s service in the ACT. CFA members believe early childhood education develops skills and qualities that remain with children for life.

Not-for profit providers deliver affordable and accessible services that ensure children achieve the lifelong benefits of quality education, especially those who experience disadvantage and require additional support.

**END**

**Co-Chairs Simon Bennett, Executive Manager, Community Services, Anglicare NSW South NSW West & ACT is available for interviews.**

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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 Early Childhood Education and Care (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 at 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](http://www.childrenfirstalliance.org)