

## MEDIA RELEASE

17 June 2026

### Investing in educators means investing in children

SNAICC commends the Federal Government backing hardworking early education and care (ECEC) workers by extending the Worker Retention Payment.

Catherine Liddle, CEO of SNAICC said the extension of the 15% wage increase is a welcome and necessary investment in the ECEC workforce.

“This announcement acknowledges that fairly paid educators are critical to providing high-quality care and services for children and families,” Ms Liddle said.

“We know that this investment made a huge difference in the every-day lives of ECEC workers across the country, helping to maintain a capable and stable workforce.

“We’ve seen first-hand how the payment is helping Aboriginal Community-Controlled early learning services retain valued educators, particularly in regional and remote communities where attracting qualified staff can be especially difficult.

“Extending this investment is not just sensible, it’s essential and is the type of practical reform that’s necessary in the sector.

“And when it comes down to it, our educators deserve to be paid in line with the vital role they play in shaping children's learning, development and wellbeing.

Investing in ACCO-led ECEC is one of the most effective ways to strengthen outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. We encourage governments to continue building on reforms that support these services to thrive.

“Every eligible ACCO-led service should have the opportunity to access this funding.”

SNAICC is available to assist services navigate the process so they can focus on supporting and retaining the dedicated educators their communities rely on. ACCO ECEC’s are encouraged to reach out so we can help navigate accessing the Worker Retention Payment.

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For all media queries, please contact Charlie Bowcock on 0417 042 308 or [media@snaicc.org.au](mailto:media@snaicc.org.au)