

18th November, 2020

Statement from the National Outside School Hours Services Alliance

The National Outside School Hours Services Alliance (NOSHSA) welcomes the newly established Outside School Hours Care Council of Australia (OSHCA) into the representational and advocacy space for the national interests of OSHC. It is NOSHSA's intention to work collaboratively with OSHCA in recognition of our shared interests in advancing and promoting the OSHC sector in Australia. NOSHSA recognises the value in strengthening the voice of OSHC to our State/Territory and Federal governments and making this voice visible to our members.

NOSHSA has been actively leading and advancing the OSHC sector for over 20 years. Our long history of leadership and advocacy has delivered tremendous results and we are proud to be acknowledged by the Australian Government's Minister for Education, the Honourable Dan Tehan. Recently, Minister Tehan has sent NOSHSA this statement following our advocacy around COVID 19 impacts and more specifically our research request for governments to better understand the unique operating contexts for OSHC.

"I understand that you and members of your organisation provided valuable input to the recently completed review of the OSHC sector that I requested, and I thank you for your ongoing contribution. I can assure you that the input provided by NOSHSA and other OSHC providers to the KPMG report has already helped inform recent government responses to viability issues within the OSHC sector. My department is currently briefing my office on the KPMG report and this includes considerations of areas for ongoing focus.

Once again, I thank you for bringing your feedback on the OSHC sector to my attention. I appreciate your time and value your constructive engagement on OSHC issues." Minister Dan Tehan

NOSHSA is a federated model of advocacy. This means that the State and Territory Peak bodies representing OSHC work together in collaboration to form an Alliance. This Alliance is confirmed through a documented agreement which informs how the alliance functions and makes decisions. <https://www.noshsa.org.au/>

NOSHSA's branches are:

- Queensland & Northern Territory: Queensland Children's Activities Network (QCAN)
- New South Wales & ACT: Network of Community Activities (Network)
- Victoria: Community Child Care Association
- South Australia: OSHCsA
- Western Australia: Outside School Hours Care WA (Inc.)

<https://www.noshsa.org.au/branches>

NOSHSA'S goals are to:

- Represent the interests of the OSHC sector in Australia
- Promote OSHC as a distinct and unique service type
- Act as an advisory and consultative body for Government
- Lobby and advocate for the services and service users of OSHC centres
- Facilitate networking between organizations and professionals with shared interests
- Raise the Profile of OSHC in Australia
- Analyse and make recommendations on government policy
- Promote planning and development within and for the sector across a broad range of matters

NOSHSAs are proud of our history of success, which includes:

- Overseeing the development of My Time, Our Place through participation in the steering committee
- Partnership with the Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) to develop the resource 'Promoting collaborative partnerships between school age care services and schools'
- Funding to support the OSHC sector's engagement with My Time, Our Place
- Representation of OSHC on the former Australian Government's Ministerial Advisory Council for ECEC
- Membership of Australian Government advisory group for the implementation of Child Care Subsidy
- Current representation of the OSHC sector with the Australian Government ECE Reference Group

In this way, NOSHSAs have continued to be called upon by governments for our expertise. NOSHSAs have been at the forefront of advocacy, influencing policy and practice for the past 3 decades and maintain a commitment to this work into the future.

The strength of our federated model enables our members to continue to engage in workforce development and promotion at both local and federal levels. Our members' work has been published and recognised internationally through the World Education Research Association -International Research Network (WERA-IRN). We have developed OSHC Professional Standards for Educators acknowledged by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership. These are freely available to all OSHC services throughout Australia.

<https://www.oshcprofessionalstandards.org.au/>

In 2020 we have published the first Australian magazine dedicated to OSHC, "*All About OSHC*". This magazine can be found on the NOSHSAs website and is freely available to the entire OSHC sector throughout Australia.

<https://www.noshsa.org.au/news>

NOSHSAs is the leading OSHC advocacy body in Australia. We have a long and successful history of advancing the sector and have contributed significantly to the strength of the sector today. Our membership is representative of more than 50% of the sector throughout Australia.

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