

Powerful coalition supports \$246m Nanny Pilot Programme

28 April 2015. A powerful coalition representing a broad cross section of business, non-government, industry and women's lobby groups has welcomed the pre-budget announcement by Scott Morrison, Minister for Social Services, of a two year \$246 million Interim Home Based Carer Subsidy Programme.

Coalition spokespersons Claire Braund and Marie Coleman said "The program should enable greater workplace participation by making childcare more affordable for middle to lower income shift workers who don't have either the income or regular hours that enable them to access mainstream child care services. Importantly, it is in line with the Productivity Commission's recommendation and only approved providers will be funded.

"However, we would be very concerned if the funding for this trial program comes at the expense of existing projects. Affordable child care is the key to greater workforce participation and significant economic benefits flow from that. Taking from Peter to pay Paul is not an option.

"We would also encourage the government to consult further on what the key stakeholders consider to be the minimum qualifications for the carers involved. At first glance we are not convinced that simply being over 18 years of age, not a family member with a current Working with Children Check and first aid qualifications are sufficient. There should be scope for upgrading skill levels as required and appropriate industrial protections are necessary for workers in private homes.

"We look forward to working constructively with the Government on this important matter."

Members of the coalition

- **Australian Council of Trade Unions**
- **Business and Professional Women Australia**
- **Financial Services Institute of Australasia**
- **National Council of Women of Australia**
- **National Foundation of Australian Women**
- **The Work and Family Policy Roundtable**
- **Women on Boards**
- **Women's Electoral Lobby**
- **Young Women's Christian Association**

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