

# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES STRATEGY 1989**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Congress notes the following achievements over the past two years in line with the implementation of ACTU policy for Child care and Children's services.

- (i) Additional 30,000 child care places in the 1988 budget bringing to a total of 97,700 places created by the Labor Government since 1983
- (ii) Development of a Negotiating Document related to the Industry Initiative Scheme and consultation regarding the establishment and implementation of the Scheme
- (iii) Child Care Workers Wage Case
- (iv) Family Day Care Award Coverage Case
- (v) Establishment of a Children's Services Program Advisory Committee
- (vi) Establishment of a National Family Day Care Council

## 2. PRIORITIES

2.1 In line with the Children's Services Policy, Congress determines the following priorities:-

### 2.2 Child Care Places

- (i) Increased provision of child care places across the full range of services

### 2.3 Industry Child Care Initiative

- (i) Continued implementation of the Industry Initiative scheme and its extension into federal, state and local government sectors.
- (ii) Initiation of strategies to ensure that federal, state and local governments provide work-related child care for their own employees including the Higher Education Industry.

### 2.4 Funding of Child Care

- (i) Sufficient funding to ensure payment of appropriate award wages and common industrial entitlements such as superannuation to workers employed in the child care industry and additional funding necessary for award restructuring and national test case.

### 2.5 Family Day Care

- (i) Development of appropriate guidelines which ensure adequate support and resourcing of care givers. Including the recognition that caregivers are actually employees who

should have the protection of award coverage.

- (ii) The decision of the A.I.R.C. in the MEU Family Day Care Matter is welcomed as it will establish a more equitable base for workers in the industry.

The Federal Government to maintain a proper level of funding for family day care.

## 2.6 National Standards

- (i) Development of a set of national standards for children's services across Australia.

## 2.7 Accreditation

- (i) Development of a mechanism which will enable accreditation of services, training courses and personnel.