

OSHC Sector – Child Safety Forum

Summary

On Wednesday, 13 May 2026, Minister for Education and Early Childhood, Yvette Berry MLA, convened an Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Sector Child Safety Forum, bringing together over 60 representatives from across the sector, including providers, service leaders, educators and government officials.

The forum provided an opportunity to engage directly with the sector on child safety in OSHC settings, share perspectives and identify key issues and opportunities to strengthen safeguards for children and support the OSHC workforce.

The forum included a facilitated panel discussion, featuring Ms Kylie Keane (National Outside of School Hours Care Alliance – ACT Representative), Ms Ali Sewter (Director, Forrest Primary School OSHC) and Mr Sean Moysey (Executive Branch Manager, Education and Care Regulation and Support).

The forum reinforced the commitment and professionalism of the OSHC workforce, and a strong sense of collective progress towards the National Child Safety Reform agenda. Panel members noted that the priority is on embedding and sustaining best practice across the sector. The ACT's position as a national leader in areas such as ratios, qualifications and considered reform implementation was acknowledged, alongside the value of a measured approach that has supported quality and consistency.

Participants emphasised the need for ongoing, genuine consultation to ensure OSHC specific contexts are fully reflected in reform work as well as more broadly on issues that affect the sector. Workforce challenges were identified as being a key pressure point, and participants and panel members highlighted the importance of sector-wide investment, strong and psychologically safe workplace cultures and clear career pathways to attract and retain skilled educators.

Active supervision, grounded in relationships and knowledge of children, as well as the thoughtful use of space, was affirmed as central to child safety in OSHC settings. It was noted that supervision must be supported over time by fit-for-purpose environments, and that relationships between OSHC providers and schools are central to quality service delivery.

Panel members highlighted the critical role of leadership in developing a service culture that enables open dialogue, reflective practice and child-centred decision making. There was a clear call to strengthen partnerships across the sector, share positive practice more visibly, and continue building a confident, engaged sector to sustain momentum and embed a robust child safe OSHC system.

If you have any questions, please contact the Education Directorate's Early Childhood Education Branch - Local Policy team at earlychildhoodpolicy@act.gov.au.

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