



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Education**

Our Ref MC23-005978

Mr Shane Rendalls  
[srend58@gmail.com](mailto:srend58@gmail.com)

Dear Mr Rendalls

Thank you for your email of 28 November 2023 to the Hon Jason Clare MP, Federal Minister for Education, regarding potential closure or reduction in services of the Macleay Island Early Childhood Centre because of changes in funding. As the issues raised fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for Early Childhood Education, your email was referred to her Office for reply. The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The Government is committed to improving the early childhood education and care (ECEC) system, including outcomes for families in regional areas, to ensure all Australian children have the best possible start in life and that parents are supported to work, train or study. To that end, the Government will continue to deliver important ECEC reforms, while also implementing new measures designed to improve the ECEC system and make it more accessible for families.

The Government acknowledges the importance of accessible ECEC across the country, including the Southern Moreton Bay Islands community. As you are aware, ECEC is delivered to children and families by approved providers and services, including any service located on Macleay Island.

While ECEC in Australia is delivered through a market approach, funding is provided through the Community Child Care Fund (CCCF) to improve further access to ECEC in Australia by helping services address barriers to ECEC participation, particularly in disadvantaged, regional and remote communities.

I am encouraged to read about your support for the continued delivery of local child care services on Macleay Island. You may be interested to know that a Grant Forecast Opportunity has been published on the GrantConnect website at [grants.gov.au](https://grants.gov.au), indicating the Government's intention to undertake a larger CCCF Open Competitive grant opportunity, for eligible ECEC services.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nattalie Smith".

Nattalie Smith  
Assistant Secretary  
Access and Inclusion Branch  
20 December 2023