



THE HON WARREN SNOWDON MP
Minister for Defence Science and Personnel

Dear families

I am delighted to announce that a new provider will be taking over the management of the Defence owned and leased centres on 18 May 2009, ensuring the ongoing operation of our child care centres.

Defence has worked closely with the Child Care Industry Task Force within the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), the Receivers of ABC Learning Centres, McGrathNicol and PPB, to ensure Defence families continue to have access to high-quality child care.

The new contractor is B4Kids Pty Ltd (B4Kids). The team at B4Kids has over ten years experience in the management of corporate child care programs with previous clients including Westpac, ANZ, Tyco, and Optus. Since 2007 they were engaged as independent contractors to manage the Defence contract between ABC and Defence, and since October 2008 have been managing the contract on behalf of the receivers. As such they are in a good position to manage the transition of the centres from the receivers and to give you reliable, quality child care.

I certainly have every expectation that you will not experience any disruption in service as the transition occurs, and am pleased that under the new arrangements, centres will have greater autonomy and better capacity to respond to the different needs of the families in each centre.

I can also assure parents who use the ABC Centres where Defence has priority access, that the 15 under ABC1 will continue to be managed by McGrathNicol, and future operators has been identified for the further five that have been under the care of the Court Appointed Receiver (CAR) process.

To address any further concerns you may have, the Defence Community Organisation Child Care team will be travelling to each area to hold briefings with families and Command on the transition process. There will also be periodic updates available on the Defence Community Organisation website for Defence families at www.defence.gov.au/dco

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that our aim is to continue to ensure the ongoing provision of high-quality care for Defence families.

I thank you for your continued support of the Defence child care centres and patience throughout this process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Snowdon', written over the printed name.

WARREN SNOWDON