



TOM VENNING MP

Member for Grey



MEDIA RELEASE

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FAMILIES SPEAK OUT ON CHILDCARE CRISIS

Families in Grey are being failed by a childcare system that leaves parents unable to work, businesses without workers and regional communities struggling to retain young families. Federal Member for Grey Tom Venning MP has launched a childcare survey, with families painting a damning picture of the inadequate childcare access across regional South Australia. Responses reveal a childcare shortage that extends well beyond parents struggling to find a place.

Regional families deserve better. The Liberals and Nationals are leading a Senate inquiry into childcare access to examine childcare shortages, workforce challenges, the Child Care Subsidy and whether government programs are meeting the needs of families.

Quotes attributable to Tom Venning Member for Grey

"Grey has the worst access to childcare in Australia. We are classified as a childcare desert, which means only one in three children have access to childcare."

"It is unacceptable that regional parents are being forced to fight for something as basic as their access to childcare."

"Jessica from Port Broughton says women in regional communities are increasingly being forced to choose between having a family and having a career, while in Kimba, mother-of-three Anna is a secondary school teacher who is unable to return to work because there is no childcare available, leaving her family unable to survive on one income."

"Families have said on my survey that they are putting their children on childcare waitlists while still pregnant, travelling long distances and paying additional fuel costs to access services, dealing with centre closures and, in some cases, considering leaving regional communities altogether because suitable childcare is not available."

"Kids in Grey deserve nothing less than the highest standard of care and protection, but at the moment, too many are missing out because the childcare simply isn't there."

"Families know what works for them. The Coalition wants to give them a choice - we will back what suits each family, not just one type."

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