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MEDIA RELEASE

Have Childcare Reforms Reached the Regions?

RDA Mid North Coast is calling for community input to update its regional childcare analysis and sharpen its case for government action.

March 2026

In 2023, RDA Mid North Coast published a [Childcare on the Mid North Coast Survey Response Summary](#) in which an economic analysis showed that only 65% of childcare demand in the region was being met causing Mid North Coast families an estimated \$384 million in lost wages. The finding pointed to a structural shortfall with real economic consequences: families unable to access care, workforce participation constrained, and local businesses losing productive workers.

Since that report, both the Federal and NSW State Governments have introduced a range of reforms to the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector. But regional data on whether those changes have translated into improved access, affordability or workforce conditions on the Mid North Coast remains limited.

To address the information gap, RDA Mid North Coast has launched two short, anonymous surveys with the aim of capturing current, on-the-ground experiences of community members.

RDA MNC's role is to gather credible regional evidence and put it in front of decision-makers. Community voices from parents who can't find childcare to providers under workforce pressure are what make that advocacy count. This survey is how those voices are heard.

Dr. Madeleine Lawler (CEO of RDA Mid North Coast)

If you are a parent of family member who has tried to access childcare on the Mid North Coast, RDA Mid North Coast wants to hear about your experience. The survey takes approximately five minutes to complete and collects no names or contact details.

Parents & Family Survey: <https://lnkd.in/gPKMzsa> <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZBNQLGS>

If you work in or operate a childcare service in the Mid North Coast region, your frontline perspective on capacity, workforce pressures and the impact of recent policy changes is needed.

Childcare Service Provider Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZHH2QBQ>

Every response directly strengthens RDA Mid North Coast's advocacy with federal, state and local government for targeted investment and reform in the region.

-ENDS-

Media Contact

Dianne Wall

Chief Operations Officer

E: operations@rdamnc.org.au