

Sky News - Minister Aly - May 11, 2023

TOM CONNELL: But we haven't seen a government backed pay rise. So we'll see what happens with wage decisions.

MINISTER ALY: That's right. We have to wait and see what happens with that mechanism in place.

TOM CONNELL: Is it still on the table, that if there's a significant pay rise, that sort of spreads out through the sector, that the government could foot the bill? Is that on the table?

MINISTER ALY: What we've said since we introduced the IR legislation last year, that created this mechanism to make the bargaining process for early childhood education and care workers, that will begin in June. What we've said is that when the time is appropriate, we are willing to come to the table, but we cannot preempt.

TOM CONNELL: What does come to the table mean? Pay for it?

MINISTER ALY: Well, that remains to be seen, but we can't preempt what the outcome of the bargaining process is going to be.

TOM CONNELL: Sure, but in aged care you did pre-empt, you said we'll pay for whatever it is. Child care, you're going to wait to see, but it is possible that government will foot the bill for this for a pay rise in this sector as well, is that what you are saying?

MINISTER ALY: What I'm 100% guaranteeing is that we are willing to come to the table when the time is appropriate. What I'm saying is that we are waiting to see what the process looks like and what the outcome is but we cannot preempt that.