



21 October 2022

Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Sent by email only: eec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Members

### **Junior Adventures Group Submission - Inquiry into Family Assistance Legislation (Cheaper Child Care) Bill 2022**

Junior Adventures Group provides Outside Schools Hours services to over 460 communities across Australia. We believe in Building Brighter Futures together with our school partners, and the 30,000 families and 65,000 children we connect with.

We also believe that Outside School Hours services play a vital role and function that supports individual children, families and community wellbeing, enabling workforce participation and other essential commitments.

At Junior Adventures Group we are committed to ensuring we play our part in enabling children's creativity, participation and wellbeing to thrive in the world yet to be imagined. We also realise we play an integral part in the prosperity and cohesion of Australian society through our connection with community, schools, parents and children.

We would like to thank the Government for the proposed changes to the Family Assistance Legislation Bill 2022. We acknowledge that "cheaper childcare" is an outcome of the Bill, but we also believe the Bill will enable **more families to access high quality service, programs and care that are essential in the lives of Australian children**. In the instance of outside school hours care, the My Time, Our Place framework provides for the delivery of an environment where *"All children have the best start in life to create a better future for themselves and for the nation."* A place where school aged educators can enrich children's wellbeing and development in school settings. **This Bill will enable more families to experience this source of enrichment and support**, and post the disruption caused to their work and families lives due to the pandemic, there could not be a more opportune time in our view.

Junior Adventures Group acknowledges that women and families play a key role in building Australia's workforce participation. This participation will help rebuild economic productivity and outcomes post the incredibly hard time the COVID pandemic saw our families and children endure.



Families and children require quality programs and services and we would like to ask the Government to consider this more fully across their life span. **Any sort of additional cost burden that has been relieved in the 0-5 year age group, should also be considered for the primary years children (5-12 year old group).**

**We would propose that the discount for subsequent children, as applied to the 0-5-year-olds, should also be included for the 5-12 year olds**, so as they can participate in the enhancement based programs delivered through outside school hours services, without this being a cost burden to working parents/carers who have more than one child in care. We know this would be an additional (minimal) cost to this reform, but it would have a major impact on supporting families with children in the primary school years, especially for those parents who choose to re-enter the workforce when their children enter primary school (which is often the case).

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our view and we look forward to working with the Government in any way possible to ensure Australia families and children build bright futures in Australia. We know we can do this together.

Kind regards

Craig Napier  
CEO - Group