



**Australian Government Solicitor**  
Level 34, 600 Bourke Street Melbourne VIC 3000  
GPO Box 2853 Melbourne VIC 3001  
T 03 9242 1222  
www.ags.gov.au

7 August 2023

The Associate to President Hatcher  
Fair Work Commission  
11 Exhibition Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Canberra  
Sydney  
Melbourne  
Brisbane  
Perth  
Adelaide  
Hobart  
Darwin

By email: chambers.hatcher.j@fwc.gov.au

Dear Associate

**B2023/538 - Application for a supported bargaining authorisation - Early childhood education and care sector**

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1. We act for the Commonwealth in the above matter.
2. The Commonwealth notes the Commission's variation of directions on 2 August 2023, which afford the Commonwealth the opportunity to file submissions in this matter by 4pm 7 August 2023. The Commonwealth thanks the Commission for the opportunity to be heard in this matter.
3. The Commonwealth does not at this stage propose to file submissions in this matter. The Commonwealth notes that the Commission will have the benefit of submissions from the relevant unions and employer bodies in the industry, as well as from the peak councils. The Commonwealth will review the submissions of the parties and peak councils, and seeks the leave of the Commission that it be able to file any reply to those submissions by 4pm on 11 August 2023, in line with the timing of direction 3 of the 14 June 2023 directions.
4. The Commonwealth notes the importance of this application both for the early childhood education and care sector and as the first application under the new provisions. The Commonwealth intends to follow the progress of this application closely and would be grateful if the Commission and the parties could copy us (as the Commonwealth's representatives) to any correspondence regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Craig Rawson', written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Craig Rawson**  
Senior Executive Lawyer  
T 03 924 21248  
M 0419 230 709  
craig.rawson@ags.gov.au