



It's all about the Territory

## MEDIA RELEASE

# PAIN, NOT MUCH GAIN

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The Federal Government's budget busting childcare changes will mean an unhappy homecoming for hundreds of Territory families already struggling under cost of living pressures.

Shadow Minister for Children and Families, Robyn Lambley, said Territorians are in for a shock when they return their littlies to childcare after the holidays.

"It's another price increase that Territorians can do without," Ms Lambley said.

"The Henderson Government has played down the impact of the changes on childcare fees, but has been caught out by centre operators.

"Minister Chris Burns said in Parliament last year that the new regulations would increase the cost of childcare by about \$3.50 per child per day.

"But a few weeks later the operator of a Darwin centre said they would up their fees by \$5 per child per day, and other operators have since indicated the increase could be as much as \$10.

"This is the thin edge of the wedge for Territorians who must be wondering when Labor's going to stop putting up prices or lumping them with new taxes.

"Territorians are already paying more for beverages as a result of Labor adopting one of the most expensive recycling schemes around and the carbon tax will also increase energy costs across the board.

"The childcare reforms won't mean any significant improvement to Northern Territory early child care services, just higher child care fees and more stress on families and providers."

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