



ADVISORY

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Australian expert warns Canada about big-box child care takeover

News conference Friday, September 30, 9:30 a.m.

OTTAWA—Australian expert, Lynne Wannan, launches a three-week speaking tour Friday to share lessons about the big-box takeover of child care in her country, and caution against a similar outcome for Canada.

When: Friday, September 30, 9:30 a.m.

Where: Parliament Hill, Charles Lynch Room, 130-S in Centre Block

Ottawa has made \$5-billion available over the next five years to the provinces and territories for licensed child care, with few restrictions. Wannan will speak about the child care changes in Australia that allowed corporate chains to gobble up public dollars and post record profits. ABC Learning Centres now controls 25% of the sector and wants to expand to other countries, including Canada, says its Canadian-born CEO, Eddy Groves.

Wannan is a member of the advisory group to Australia's Minister for Children, and is chair of the National Association of Community Based Children's Services of Australia.

- 30 -

The Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada represents more than 140,000 parents, caregivers, union members, researchers and students; and women's, anti-poverty, social justice, disability and rural organizations.