

Media release

Court Appointed Receiver for ABC2 Group seeks short continuation of appointment

- **No additional Government funding required for the continuation**
- **Contracts currently being exchanged for the sale of the first 65 centres**
- **Strong interest for the sale of most of the remaining centres**
- **PPB to advise on outcome of all centres no later than 15 April 2009**

13 March, 2009: The Court Appointed Receivers (CAR) for ABC2 Group, Stephen Parbery and Daniel Bryant of PPB, today announced that they have requested that the Australian Government approach the NSW Supreme Court to seek a short continuation of the CAR's appointment until 15 May 2009. No additional Government funding is required for this extension.

PPB is pleased to report that the sale and transfer process is progressing well, with contracts currently being exchanged for the sale of the first 65 centres to a number of parties. These parties are being encouraged to apply for childcare licenses as soon as possible.

Stephen Parbery said that due to the number and complexity of offers, and the fact that there are multiple stakeholders, a short extension to PPB's appointment is being sought from the NSW Supreme Court.

"This is a unique and very complex process. We are currently assessing offers from more than 180 parties and negotiating with over 100 individual landlords. While we are satisfied with our progress and the quality of the offers, a short extension will provide us with the additional time to better facilitate negotiations between all parties.

"The fact that we are in the process of exchanging contracts for the sale of the first 65 centres is a pleasing development. There is also strong interest in most of the remaining centres and we are negotiating with landlords to reach agreement with the most suitable bidders.

"While we expect a significant majority of the 241 centres to be sold, there is of course a risk that satisfactory operators cannot be identified for all centres. As we have previously stated, one of our key roles has been to identify alternative childcare solutions and employment opportunities at neighbouring centres where needed.

Subject to the Court's ruling, Mr Parbery said that by 15 April 2009 at the latest, PPB will advise of an outcome for all ABC2 Group Centres. "We are very mindful of the fact that this is an unsettling time for the families and staff of these centres and we will advise them of an outcome for all centres by 15 April."

"Our objective throughout this process has been to ensure that any outcomes deliver sustainable and high quality childcare for the families using ABC2 Group centres. This extension will help us to achieve this."

PPB will shortly write to parents and guardians, employees and centre directors to update them on progress. Further information can be found on www.ppb.com.au/site/abc

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