

3 December 2015

MEDIA STATEMENT

AEIOU's response to allegations made in the *Adelaide Advertiser*

Following allegations regarding the health and safety of children in AEIOU Foundation's Huntfield Heights centre, AEIOU Chairman and Founder James Morton has made the following statement:

"AEIOU Foundation is committed to the provision of exceptional care of the children in our centres at all times.

The Foundation and two of our employees are cooperating with South Australia Police (SAPOL) in relation to what we consider to be unfounded and completely baseless allegations.

We have no evidence to suggest any children from our centre have been harmed by our staff, however we are fully cooperating with police during their investigations.

These employees have our 100% support. They have not been suspended from employment, rather they are on a period of additional paid leave which they requested so that they could assist the police with their enquiries.

We have reviewed detailed logs around both children's attendance at AEIOU and we are confident that when the authorities complete their investigations our staff will be exonerated.

The parents of the children in question allowed their children to be present at the centre for many, many months after the children were allegedly harmed. Again, these allegations are untrue and completely denied.

The children of our centre are not at risk and will continue to receive our 100% dedicated professional care.

AEIOU Foundation has strict policies and procedures in place to ensure the health, wellbeing and safety of every child in the program.

We participate in regular reviews to ensure the program is delivered with professionalism and in line with all guidelines.

All staff members are qualified and highly-trained, including in the appropriate manual handling of all children in their care."

- ENDS -

ABOUT AEIOU Foundation:

AEIOU Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation and one of Australia's largest providers of early intervention for children with autism. AEIOU's evidence-based program meets the 2012 Australian Good Practice Guidelines, and is underpinned by behaviour therapy, speech therapy and education. With nine centres in Australia, including eight across Queensland and one in Adelaide, AEIOU supports more than 240 pre-school aged children and their families each year.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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