

**A.B.C. Learning Centres Limited**

ABN 93 079 736 664

20 Metroplex Avenue, Murarrie Qld 4172

PO Box 10120 Adelaide Street, Brisbane Qld 4000

MEDIA STATEMENT 30 AUGUST 2004**A.B.C. LEARNING CENTRES LIMITED (ASX - ABS)****Announcement of 2004 result****REPORTS 78% PROFIT INCREASE AND GROWTH FOR THE FUTURE**

A.B.C. Learning Centres Ltd (ABC) today announced a record operating profit after tax of \$21.368 million for the year ending 30 June 2004.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	2004	2003	Change
• Revenue	\$81.5 m	\$40.9 m	+99.3%
• Operating Profit after tax	\$21.4 m	\$12.0 m	+77.0%
• Earnings per share - basic	17.5 cents	17.4 cents	+37.4%
• Final Dividend – fully franked	5.5 cents	4.0 cents	+37.5%
• Full Year Dividend – fully franked	10.0 cents	7.0 cents	+42.9%
• No. of childcare centres – 30 June	327	187	+74.9%

GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

The 2003/2004 financial year has shown strong growth for the Company in all areas. Further expansion in New South Wales saw the acquisition of 34 centres in the Sydney metropolitan area and the Company's first centres in the Australian Capital Territory.

In Cairns, ABC purchased its second early childhood training college which will cater for students throughout North Queensland; its operation complements the existing training college located in Brisbane. The Company also expanded its presence in Cairns with the acquisition of a further 11 childcare centres.

The Company's opened its first centre in Tasmania in June as part of ABC's Corporate Care program.

Chairman, Mrs Sallyanne Atkinson said: "These results show why we're so confident about the future of ABC. They demonstrate the underlying strength of the Company and that the strategies adopted by ABC during the past year have positioned the Company for sustainable growth. The expansion of our training college operations is a further demonstration of our commitment to having the best possible staff to provide developmental programs for our children".

The CEO Operations, Mr Eddy Groves said: "Once again we have proven that the Company will continue to generate positive benefits for our shareholders without compromising the quality standards for which ABC has become renowned."

"The result is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our management and staff and of the strategies that have been adopted to strengthen ABC's position in the market as Australia's leading provider of child care services," Mr Groves went on to say.

NEW SCHOOLS DIVISION

In February 2004, the Company announced the creation of its Education Division to provide services to independent primary schools in Australia.

A.B.C. Education Services Pty Ltd will provide management services to Independent Colleges Australia Limited, a not-for-profit company which will own and operate the schools.

The first site at which these services are to be provided is at the Australian Centre for Lifelong Learning, Springfield.

DIVIDEND

The Directors are pleased to declare a final dividend of 5.5 cents per share, fully franked, making a total of 10.0 cents fully franked for the full year

The final dividend will be paid to shareholders on the register as at 1 October 2004 with payment scheduled for 15 October 2004.

The Directors are enacting the Company's Dividend Reinvestment Plan to be available for use by shareholders for this dividend payment.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

5 new centres in New Zealand

The Directors are also pleased to announce today that its New Zealand subsidiary, A.B.C. Developmental Learning Centres (NZ) Ltd has entered into an agreement to acquire 5 existing childcare centres on the south island.

The acquisition is for a total of NZ\$4 million in cash with settlement anticipated for late October 2004. This will bring the total number of operating centres in New Zealand to 17.

Issued on behalf of: A.B.C. Learning Centres Limited
Issued by: Sawyer Public Relations
Further information: Peter Sawyer
Phone: (07) 3262 3192 or 0417 626 605
Issued: 30 August 2004