

## **Childcare and Early Childhood Learning**

### **Productivity Commission**

#### **Recommendations / Comments**

1. To remove the overall service rating & rely on individual quality area ratings.
2. Replace the words “Working Towards” with something more indicative to the parents & reflective of the service & staff such as “Within range”. “Working Towards” is not reflective of a centre that is providing a safe, educational environment for children & families. It implies that the service shouldn’t be operating. This negative wording is also contradictory to the way educators are guided by the NQS, NQF & the EYLF. Everything is geared towards positive interactions & communication with peers, the children & their families. This should carry over into how services & educators are treated from their governing body.
3. Remove the NSQ assessment from the State & Territory Regulatory Authorities. We need to provide the ECEC profession with professionals who can consistently & accurately assess & rate our service & support continuous improvement.
4. Contract private assessment officers who are extensively trained, early childhood degree qualified & OSI 9001 audit qualified to complete the assessments. This is common practice for other professions.
5. Reintroduce assessments completed by peers rather than by F/T assessment officers who are removed from the everyday activities of services. There is NO CONSISTENCY from assessor to assessor
6. As a service & for the educators, over-all the assessment process is very disencouraging. There is limited interactions with the educators from the assessors & the feeling that they want to find things wrong with the centre as opposed to taking into consideration all the wonderful, positive things that are happening within the centre.
7. The assessors assumed things rather than asking the educators to clarify things eg the day the assessor visited it was raining so the children remained indoors, it was assumed there is no outdoor program, an educator had water in an insulated cup & it was assumed there was a hot drink in there & she had it while with the children.
8. The assessors do not interact with the children & the interactions with the educators is limited.