**Submission to Productivity Commission Inquiry on behalf of the Parents at Kedron Goodstart**

**About us**

Goodstart Early Learning Kedron is a centre with lots of character in Brisbane’s inner north. Children and families are from a mix of backgrounds and some of our children attend for a few days per week and others attend five days per week.

The dedicated staff at Kedron play a vital role in helping us juggle work and raising a family by providing quality care and early learning for our children. Overwhelmingly our children love the staff at Kedron and they do a great job every day. Children and families like to come together with the staff at Kedron as a community to celebrate special occasions.

**Key messages to the Productivity Commission from Parents at Kedron Goodstart**

* The child care and early learning at Kedron Goodstart provides two benefits to the community and the economy by: supporting children’s learning and development and allowing parents to work with confidence that their children are safe and their learning needs are being met. This justifies additional spending by the Government to raise the quality of child care and also to ensure child care stays affordable for families.
* Additional public investment is needed from the Government to reform CCB and CCR and ensure that child care remains affordable for all families, including where there is more than one child under school age. The payments should also be simpler to understand and no family should receive less support than they do at the moment.
* We must maintain the minimum quality standard as set down by the National Quality Framework to ensure children are safe and supported to learn and develop while parents are working.
* Funding for our kindy program must be continued so all children have the chance to benefit, especially when parents work an 8 hour day.
* Additional investment should also flow through to the center to provide and update valuable resources to give children lots of different opportunities to learn through play. This is especially important for children attending for 4 or 5 days per week.
* Long-day-care meets the needs of many working families. We must invest in the dedicated early learning professionals working in long-day-care.
* For those of us that work part time, the ability for the Director to provide us with an additional day occasionally in order to work an extra shift when required is very valuable and should be maintained.
* The children in Kedron and all over Australia deserve high quality child care.

This submission has been made on behalf of the parents at Kedron Goodstart Early Learning. We look forward to hearing your recommendations to ensure quality child care and early learning is affordable and accessible for Australian families.

Thank you for reading our submission.

*Signed by Brent Airey, father of Oscar Airey age 2 years on behalf of the Parents of Kedron Goodstart Early Learning*