

In Australia as a 30 year old woman in this wonderful country I have the 'right' to work

I have the 'right' to choose my employer

So if that is true...

I have the 'right' to work at home 24 hours a day, on call 365 days a year.

My employer is wonderful and the working conditions are fantastic.

I am a stay at home mum for three children under five.

I deserve the same access to childcare as that of my peers. Who are employed by their choice of employer with their various working conditions and working hour.

My children have the right to preschool... while I work.

They have the right to school readiness programs and socialisation skills learnt at preschool... especially in the year before school starts

I support 24 hr subsidised care for SAHM, it's a 'right' Australia should keep now and for its future woman...

My daughter and her daughters

My daughter who is five says "When I grow up I want to be a Mother"

Why does it seem this career choice is becoming just as imaginary as a girl stating she wants to be a builder or mechanic in the 1900's? Australia is a country that is free, let's hold onto our freedom.

Please reconsider the direction you are taking in regards to stay at home mothers and childcare.

I never thought I would be a stay at home mum...

I am a fully qualified Primary school teacher. I was unaware my daughter had a Tumour in her back from birth and required extra assistance and care while we worked out her health complications from birth through to the discovery of the lump at age four... benign vascular tumour (size of a third kidney leaning on her bowel, kidney and spine). I became a stay at home mum because I didn't want to have any regrets about missing her milestones etc . After making the decision to stay home I began a Masters of Education Degree distance education and after completing one unit I also had to face the shadow of a breast cancer scare I only just was officially cleared this April My two older children went to preschool during all this. The support I received for our family from the preschool, me pregnant with my third having breast biopsy and ultrasound tests... my oldest going in and out of the children's hospital for her tumour and my middle child also required intensive speech therapy for a hearing problem... If my children didn't have preschool I am not sure how we would have survived these last few years of doctor's appointments and life. They did doctor play with my little girl to help her cope with her real life experiences. Even though i am a teacher during these crazy years they have double checked school readiness and we work together to give the three children the best possible start for school.

I will return to work in the future, but these kinds of circumstances must be taken into account when making these policy changes. I am not bludging I am making the best decision for my unique circumstance. I hope this letter comes across as a sincere example of a woman who is working and working hard to provide a good life for her kids and help them grow up into responsible, dependable adults that will make their mark on this great country of ours.

Yours Faithfully,

Shellie Louis Pratt