

# Judith and Michael Beard

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Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Dear Dr Craig

## Child Care Review - Parents made redundant

I listened to you on the radio last week and found it interesting. I wanted to make the following comments:

1. I thought it was innovative for grandparents to complete Certificate IV and then be eligible for payment. Many grandparents would like to be more supportive, but cannot afford to give up work. This would be a good "work around". I myself took long service leave to mind grandchildren on two separate occasions, but was restricted in how long I could do so because I had to go back to work.
2. I thought it was a good idea for parents on maternity leave to be able to pay an administrative fee and take their child out of child care, but for the Child Care Centre to be able to sub-let the child's place until the child returns after the mother's spell of maternity leave.
3. I would really like the Review to extend that same policy when a parent is made redundant. The problem when a parent is made redundant is that they cannot afford to pay for child care, but they cannot give up the child care place because when the parent finally gets another job, he does not want to have to refuse it because he now has no child care place and it will take twelve to eighteen months to get another place. That's a vicious circle. My son-in-law was made redundant twelve months ago. He packed shelves at night at Woolworths for very low money. After twelve months, he got another office position. However, in the interim, I had to pay for the child care position for twelve months in order to avoid them losing the child care place. The workplace is now very volatile so many people will be made redundant. Is the Commission interested in taking redundancies into consideration? It would be good if parents could pay an administrative fee and have their place put on hold and sublet for a period of time. The length of time would have to be subject to review because it is less clear how long it would take to get another position when made redundant compared to going on maternity leave. However, with regular reviews, say three monthly, the hold could be managed for a year or so.

For your consideration

Yours sincerely

Judith Beard