

My submission:

*I have 1 child 1.5 years old, in a not for profit long day care centre at Seaford, South Australia. I am also currently pregnant with my second child. I am a highly educated mother (Bachelor's Degree), with a husband that works FIFO and has no other family support. I essentially work as a "single mother" for half of the calendar year each year.*

- *I am concerned with the proposal to reduce qualifications requirements for educators of children aged zero to three years.*
- *Accessing affordable childcare is a big challenge for many families. I welcome the recognition that the overall level of childcare assistance needs to be increased.*
- *Children from disadvantaged backgrounds get the biggest benefit from accessing quality early learning and care. It would be a backward step if access to early learning for disadvantaged children became harder.*

Some points you may like to include:

- *I expect, if I choose to entrust my children to a formal care environment that I leave them with educators who are qualified to support their individual learning and care needs at a price I can afford.*
- *My family values quality early learning for children, particularly in the early years before they are three. We want to feel comfortable leaving our children with educators who know and understand the development of my child.*
- *The first three years of life are a vital part of a child's development, having educators who understand and contribute to my child's development is important to me.*

*I HIGHLY disagree with the reforms of the childcare benefit and rebate, and believe that money should be diverted from the highly overfunded parental paid leave scheme and would be better channelled into encouraging parents to RETURN to work, rather than keep them home with a larger income support. It does not make financial sense, I do not understand this.*

*Even if a family is a FIFO family, which many families are these days, such as my own, this does not necessarily mean we can do without this funding. We are living as single parents and still require this assistance for healthy family development.*

*The removal of funding will see a HUGE backslide in social affairs of families, and I believe the government will see the error of their ways if this was to occur.*

*I believe the best instance would be to not remove funding from families for childcare, and believe Australia as a country will work better with a higher educated workforce.*

Many Thanks