

To whom it may concern

Our family has a child in a community managed not for profit service. I highly value the education and care my child receives. Knowing that my child is in a high quality environment supports myself and my wife to participate in the workforce, the benefit of which to the community is substantial by way of taxation and the employment of others. I am in small business and my wife works for a large government owned corporation. Without this care, I would be unable to support the livelihoods of up to 50 employees.

It would be shortsighted to take steps to minimise staffing/education levels in the sector. Too often in this society when considering the care and education of children, we fail to consider that they are the next generation of taxpayers, entrepreneurs and employers. They are the backbone of the next generation of affluence in this country, so people such as our lawmakers can enjoy a comfortable retirement.

It is their education and care now which is of vital importance to the quality of life or our community 20 or 30 years in the future.

I suggest wholeheartedly to the commission:

- Do not water down the standards of education and care for children under 3 years. Keep the current requirements for 50% of educators working with children under 3 to hold a Diploma level or higher qualification. Qualifications of educators are a vital element of high quality education and care.
- Do not remove eligibility of not for profit providers to payroll tax - this will lead to significant fee increases and may affect the viability of our service
- Do not allow services to temporarily operate with staffing levels below required ratios (by averaging over a day or a week)
- Do not simplify the National Quality Standards – quality matters for our child
- Do not introduce funding arrangements that result in reduced access and financial support for vulnerable families and children and for families in crisis.