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Productivity Commission Requests For Information**Request for information 12.1**

The suggestion to have a flat rate subsidy for each child disadvantages the families with more than one child. Presently the child care benefit is 4.10 per hour for one child and the maximum is 4.45 per hour.

Unless the 4.45 is used as a flat rate the family with more than one child will be disadvantaged.

This is .35c per hour, per child if over two children. 5 children 1.75 per hour. 50 hours \$ 87.50 extra per week to pay on the single rate.

Request for information 12.2

The second income earner is usually the female. Most females care for the children but could work part time when they are comfortable to leave their children.

The higher earner pays more tax which brings down the net income. The net income from payment summaries combined could be the means test income.

This shows the actual income coming to the home. Fringe benefits, child support would need to be considered.

Request for information 12.4

As services who use the ccms already have the costs on the system it could be used to gather information needed.

Request for information 12.5

The removal of 50 hours free care for grandparents could be devastating. Depending on the circumstances, the grandparents could relinquish the children's care to the state. This in turn would mean to place them in foster care.

This care could go on a case by case basis on the needs of the grandparent. Why are the children in their care and could they be classed under another type of care. What would they need the care for? Is it to shop, drs appointments? 24 hours free care maybe an option with requesting more if necessary.

Request for information 8.3

Parents can have 42 absences per child per year now and additional absences if the correct information is provided.

There needs to be more sick leave or more carer's leave for parents. Children get sick for a few days at a time and it usually goes around the family. It may be a one parent family.

My service uses the hours that some parents don't use on school holidays, to cater for those who still need to have extra care for the children who are on holidays from school. This way absences don't need to be claimed for parents.

Placement for nurses, teachers and the like can be up to 3 months. During this time they are not paid and could also be given free care under jet. However the hours/places need to be available somewhere at the time it is needed.

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The barrier is having the hours to fit the family in, or do they just charge the absences as they know the family is approved.

Request for information 12.8

My IHC service has SN(special needs) children in its care. We provide weekly visits, toys, books appropriate for the child's needs. Carer's often pick up differences in the child's behaviour, movements etc to give them an idea there could be a problem.

Carer's work with the parent on issues with the child's special needs. Physio, speech exercises are very common.

AGJ Businesses can arrange "assessments" for the children through another service if necessary.

NDIS provides for example 6 hours per year occupational therapy, 3 hours per year physio and 12 hours per year speech therapy. I do not believe this is adequate.

IHC can provide this daily with the help of the parent and the dr instructions. The sooner a concern is addressed the better the chance of helping the child.

Request for information 8.1

There are not enough places in child care for SN children. IHC can do it if it had its places uncapped.

Request for information 12.9

IHC has found children with a sibling with certain SN can begin copying the SN sibling. The reason could be because the child gets more attention and they wish to have it.

Unfortunately this could then bring concerns that the child also has a disability when they don't.

The child is vulnerable.

Request for information 8.2

If services could work together that would be good. Crossing use of services does confuse the children and parents. Some parents don't want the other services and are forced into it.

Are you proposing to allocate a fund of money to a child as with NDIS and it is used as they feel necessary?

This is likely to disadvantage the child if one service uses all the funds.

Request for information 13.2

I believe from a service and business point of view, if money is allocated to a service for a SN child the service is accountable for the money. There must be a payment with a receipt created invoice with the child's name, and then if money was spent for example on speech therapy for that child, an account must be issued and receipt when it is paid.

If money for an item which can be used by others how is the receipt created invoice prepared.

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Request for information 12.10

If it is only preschool then shorter hours than school are necessary. Children can attend preschool from three years of age. Preschool hours are normally 9am-2pm. Preschool children usually have nap times as they do need rest at this age.

This does not help in the child care situation as preschoolers cannot attend after school care.

Request for information 6.1

The flexible work arrangements really depends on the type of work. Does the parent have a partner to help. Does the parent drive.

Work inside school hours is 9.30am -2.30pm. This is hard find as a carer or a parent. They could do night work or early mornings, which would be cleaning and night packing, telemarketing. Then you need a partner or carer to be with the children while you are at work.

Most parents would prefer to be at home than do this type of work.

Job sharing is fantastic if it can be found. But you still need a carer or parent to do the morning shift or afternoon shift.

IHC can do this now, but we need our places uncapped.