

I am concerned about the proposed changes to early childhood learning and care.

As a parent of one child (2 years), who has attended childcare since 8 months, I have seen a number of benefits in her early learning development. My child is confident, her language skills are of a high standard and she communicates well with people of all ages. I believe the qualities she has learned, are from a combination of her home situation and childcare. At childcare she is constantly learning a variety of skills and participating in various activities. She interacts well with other children and various educators, enjoys painting, singing, dancing, gardening, learning about sustainable issues, and participating in group sports and much more. I am concerned if qualifications requirements are reduced, she will no longer receive a lot of these benefits and my second child who is enrolled go attend at the end of the year will miss out on the same opportunities his sister had. I believe that it is the level of education and qualifications that the Goodstart carers have, that have enabled the progress my daughter has shown to date.

Living in a higher cost suburb and having benefits means tested will have an impact the amount of days I will return to work and affordability of childcare for two children. Without any family support, we rely on childcare for most of the week, if not all of the week when I return to work.

My child thoroughly enjoys going to childcare and asks me everyday if she is going. She happily leaves home, looking forward to her day. Unfortunately, due to the high costs already, we are unable to enrol her any more than three days. Our second child is due to start daycare at the end of the year for two days a week, and this will be a financial burden to us.