

- *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.*
- *Childcare workers contribute to raising our children in a very significant way. So families can get back to work after having children, we entrust Childcare workers with our most beloved children. Their level of education and qualifications must be to a high level – so that our children are getting the best start they can.*
- *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, my family and friends.*
- Children's early years are the foundation for the rest of their lives.
- We have been very lucky with our Childcare centre. After a rocky start at another centre, we were lucky to find a centre with some special women educators who took care and pride in their work. They have also personal qualities that meant my child felt loved and cared for whilst in their care.
- Childcare prices are very high. Whilst I agree that Childcare workers need to be educated and paid at a good rate given their hugely important role in society, I believe the government must provide support for Childcare centres and childcare workers; and the adequate amount of child care support to families.
- A significant number of women do not return to the workforce in the capacity to which they were working, or in equal roles to which they were working in order to stay home to raise children. This needs to be addressed. Women's role in society should encompass child care as well as working in other roles within society and the government must recognise this by supporting women to return to work through the provision of adequate funding, excellent childcare with highly qualified and personalised childcare services.