

Our family has one child in a community managed not for profit service, and one on the waiting list as I plan to return to work in November after 12 months maternity leave. We also have a child who has started school this year after 4 years in child care. We highly value the education and care our children receive. Knowing that our children are in a high quality environment supports me to participate in the workforce. I am not prepared to compromise the health, safety, well being or learning and development of our children.

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

In order to contribute to the workforce I need to have my children in quality care. If this is not achievable I would be forced to stay at home until children are all at school. This does mean I would need to find a new job at that time as I am currently able to maintain my job because my employer values me and my contribution to the workforce and supports me with 12 months maternity leave. It would be very sad to be forced out of my job due to changes to the childcare standards which would not support my children.

Regards,
Fiona McGrath