

**Submission to: CHILD CARE
PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a small private child care provider in the western suburbs of Sydney. I would like to make you aware of my concerns and frustrations with the not for profit organisations which own and run preschools and child care centres. Most of these organisations charge their families fees that are the same and in most cases significantly more than I charge my families to send their child to child care.

I am a small "for profit" centre that is unable to take advantage of distributing my overheads that many larger organisations are able to do, such as local councils, Goodstart, and other church based businesses.

My frustration lies at the injustice that these so called not for profit centres/ organisations are eligible to take advantage of so many government, club and corporate grants to enhance their facilities and programmes. Even though a small organisation like mine has put in countless submissions for programmes to enhance our services to the local community and undertake to acquit every cent that is given to us, we are constantly denied access to any of these opportunities.

What is even more frustrating is that when it comes to the National Quality Framework we are assessed on a level playing field. Not one bit of consideration is given to the fact that the "not for profit centre" in most cases is charging fees that are higher than some private centres and also able to receive extra money through the extra government, club and corporate grants to enhance their programmes and facilities. The privately owned Centre is expected to achieve the same if not better quality standards in the National Quality Framework with so much less revenue.

When can a system be put in place to stop this discrimination to all the families and children that attend the private centres that work so hard to achieve such high standards without any supplementary funds.

I ask that the Commission please take time to look into this discrimination and come up with a solution and fair process where all child care centres are given the opportunity to take advantage of all the Grants that are available and in turn allow all Australian families the benefit of enhanced facilities and programmes for their children.

Regards
Julie White