

To whom it may concern,

Quality matters people. Australia's youngest citizens deserve the best, do they not?. Quality Early Childhood Educators who are passionate, caring, and qualified is what we need to deliver the best educational experience possible.

These dedicated experienced Early Childhood Professionals can only stay in their chosen career if they are paid as professionals for the professional work they do in educating Australians children, and if the broader community treats them with the respect and dignity they all deserve. The early years are critical for establishing self-esteem, resilience, healthy growth and capacity to learn. Research shows quality education and care early in life leads to better health, education and employment outcomes later in life. - I can not support or agree with the findings in you earlier report:

- Qualifications are important, they ensure that the people who are trusted with the role of educating and caring for the nations children are trained in theory and practical work, through work placements to gain knowledge and experience.
- Child/ staff ratios are important, fewer children serviced by each staff member is critical to providing high quality education and care
- Removing parts of the National Quality Framework is also wrong. The NQF was designed to raise quality and drive continuous improvement and consistency across Australia. Quality education and care shapes every child's future and lays the foundation for development and learning.

I am happy to meet with you or members from the commission to discuss this further.

Leah Malzard