

Submission re: Childcare:

My story

I am a single mother to my 20 month old child. My child began attending child care in January of this year 3 days/week, allowing me to return to work on a part-time basis. We do not have any family nearby able to help provide care for my child, and we are fully supported by Centrelink, now supplemented by my income.

When I visited child care prior to my child's acceptance, I felt positive my child would thrive under their care – the high ratio of staff to children, the thoughtful learning activities taking place, the happiness of the children, and dedication and high education of the staff were all immediately obvious to me. I felt a sense of family within the childcare centre, which is what I hoped for my child, being from such a small family of mostly two.

Since my child began attending child care, my child has benefitted in many ways, becoming a social, exuberant and happy little child. My child is always doing something different when I pick my child up, under supervision, and my child comes home sometimes saying a new word relating to a special activity done that day.

If I had not found childcare of such high quality I would not have chosen to put mt child into childcare at all, despite acceptance. I would not have felt comfortable leaving my child under sub-standard care or conditions. As I only began working in my profession 2012, to take such a long break from the workforce would have been very detrimental/possibly fatal to my career. This would have caused us to be dependent on Centrelink for much longer. I am so grateful to child care for the invaluable care they provide, giving my child and myself the opportunity for a bright and happy future.