

Syndal South Primary School
Out of School Hours Care Program
Montgomery Avenue
Mt Waverley 3149

Productivity Commission Inquiry into Child Care and Early Childhood Learning

Submission from OSHC Educators

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Our standards on providing quality education and experiences for children are high. We strive to achieve our best and work accordingly within the standards and frameworks for the benefit of all connected to OSHC.

Our concerns and comments regarding possible changes are as follows:

Ratios to be kept at 1:15 or smaller for OSHC.

- Minimum ratios-risks of not maintaining this undermines provision of quality education and care.
- Reducing existing ratios could place children at risk
- Will limit time spent with children to build on relationships and providing quality care
- Having pre-school children attend would require a whole new approach to our care and education, disadvantage school age children especially the older children (who are a challenge within OSHC). Spaces, furniture and resources would differ as to would bathroom facilities
- Educators would require to be trained in early childhood as well as school age care
- Parents have expressed their concern over their children attending the program with reduced staff ratios they feel the care and safety of their children would be jeopardised
- The impact of this on educators would be stressful
- An educator working alone prior to the arrival/departure of children could be an occupational health and safety issue.
- If an educator was working alone and a serious incident (a child hurting themselves, an intruder or an emergency evacuation had to be undertaking) or accusation arose of a child being mistreated, there would be grave implications for that person.
- The Holiday program we offer would be disadvantaged. We would have to limit or possibly stop learning excursions/incursions as activities would not be age related and children's safety would be at risk.

The National quality standards should not be impacted. The industry has worked very hard to get to this stage with a tremendous amount of effort on analysing and evaluating our programs to advantage children.

It is imperative that all educators work towards obtaining a qualification to further enhance the quality of care delivered. It has taken years to get to this stage of professionalism and to take it away would undermine the progress within children's services.

Vulnerable families and children and families in crisis should not be affected with reduced access and financial support. It would be shameful to have families in need suffer.

Not for profit OSHC Services operated by schools or community groups should be encouraged. Many schools are proud to be able to offer this service and use it as a selling point when parents are looking to enrol their children. Not for profit services are community minded, direct any profits back into their programs which benefit the children, families and educators. Training, professional development, technology, building upgrades, educational resources, good quality furniture, furnishings, resources, games and food are always considered and implemented when possible.