

Comments and Thoughts on the draft report:

Nannies and Grandparents – we struggle enough in our services to fill occupancy, without the added competition of nannies and grandparents being approved for CCB etc. Whether there is a qualification attached or not – the reality is that nannies and grandparents will not be focused on providing the best possible early learning environments for our young Australians. A huge part of their role is to tidy the house, cook the dinner, wash the clothes etc. It may be a convenient thought, but it definitely won't be in the best interests of children's early learning, and it will greatly affect centres that are already struggling to stay afloat. If we are looking at flexible options for families we already have that in Family Day Care. We don't believe Long Day Care is the place for overnight care, that would be the role of other services such as Family Day Care. Children should be in a home, in a bed – not on a little stretcher in a child care centre. Overnight care is not something we would ever like to see in ANY child care centre.

There could be an option for slightly longer operating hours during the day, however there would also be an increase in staffing wages for this service, and therefore an increase in fees for this service. Also, however, as it stands at the moment our families who get 50 hours CCB are already penalized if they come 5 days per week as we are open for 57.5 hours per week, so they are already charged more for their 5th day. If we were to open for longer hours, it would also cost them more from that perspective too. If this was to come into play, maybe the CCB hours should be increased as well.

Kindy at School - I read something about a recommendation to attach our Kindy children (3-4 year olds in QLD) to schools. This would see us close down. At the moment there is absolutely no profitability in 0-3 care. The only way we are able to make a small profit, is from the older children in our centres. If you were to take our older children away – we wouldn't be able to stay open. Prep has already taken away all of our pre-schoolers (and is rapidly damaging them in the process), don't take our Kindy children away too. Children need to PLAY. They shouldn't be at school until they are 7 – never mind when they are 4. This is a whole different argument, with LOTS of supporting evidence. Let us keep our Kindy children so we can provide the best possible play and learning environment for them without the horrendous Australian Curriculum pushed down their throats.

Reduced Qualls for 0-3 – There is much research that supports the benefits of qualified educators for our babies and toddlers. Their brain growth is rapid, their language development and sense of themselves and the world around them is in such an important stage. It would be wrong for us to leave them with unqualified people who don't understand the necessity of these crucial early years. Whilst on the topic of qualifications, we feel it is necessary to raise some concern with the current Bachelor Qualifications. There are a couple of problems we have clearly identified:

1. The course qualifies people to teach BOTH in early childhood and schools. Most people who complete their Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood), do it with the intention of teaching in a school, and use child care as a “fall back” option. Many leave child care if they can get a good in the door of the school system, as they are attracted to the working hours, holidays and pay. There needs to be 2 separate courses. One which is just for 0-5 years and does NOT allow graduates to teach in a school, and one which is for 5-12 years which DOES allow graduates to teach in a school. Child care can't be seen as a “fall back” option. We need people in the industry who are passionate about early childhood and WANT to work within the child care industry, not people who aren't good enough for school or who can't get a job at a school. They are NOT passionate about what they're doing. There is also a great difference in the content that should be in each of those courses. Early Childhood in child care is VERY DIFFERENT than early childhood in a school. We need to have educators in child care who understand the

importance of PLAY, not those who think we need to push the ABC's and 123's down into Kindy Programs.

2. Some of the courses are complete rubbish. One of our Directors gained a scholarship for the Bachelor of Child and Family Services and it was a complete waste of time. She was doing Year 9 maths subjects and 90% of the course was useless for Early Childhood. This course has qualified this Director to be a "Teacher" in a child care setting. Whilst she is very competent at what she does, there are many who aren't and I shudder to think that some people who have completed THAT course are now qualified to teach in our settings. A review needs to be done on what courses are acceptable for our industry. This course was NOT acceptable.

Ratios – there wasn't much said about ratios, however as a business owner, I would strongly suggest adopting the old QLD ratios. With the change in ratios our centre will require 3 extra educators. In order to fund the wages for 3 extra educators (working on approximately \$50 000 each by the time you add super and payroll tax), we need to find an additional \$150000 each year. We are unable to absorb this cost and therefore it will need to be passed onto families. Working at 75% occupancy (and please note, even though we have achieved the excellence rating, we have NEVER had 100% occupancy), fees would need to increase \$12.45 per day to support the extra 3 educators.

We have already started to add a little bit more to our annual fee rise, so instead of rising \$3 per day, we have made the last 2 raises \$5 per day. When we raised fees by \$5 in July last year, we immediately had families who dropped days, as they couldn't afford the fee rise. (We should also make mention that we are still the cheapest child care centre in our area at \$74-\$75 per day).

Queensland ratios have always been good, and they have always supported high quality.

6 weeks – 15 months –	1:4
15 months – 2 years –	1:5
2 years – 2.5 years -	1:6
2.5 years – 3 years -	1:8
3 years – 5 years -	1:12

The ratios change gradually as the children get older and it is much more flexible. We have always worked with a 1:8 for children aged 2.5 to 3 years, and to have to drop back to the new ratio of 1:6 affects us greatly. We have always worked with a 1:5 for children aged 15 months – 2 years, and there really isn't a need to bring it back to a 1:4.

Whilst on the topic of ratios – there should be NO option to go greater than a 3x ratio eg 3 educators to 12 babies. We know services won't get an exceeding rating if they go above 3 educators to a group, however those who don't care about the exceeding rating won't care that they can't get it. They can still get meeting and run a baby farm with no further consequences.

CCB and CCR – I was interested to read the proposal to join CCB and CCR and also about it being applied to a set rate. I see this as being quite a fair way to look at things, however we need to ensure families are able to get relief for the whole number of hours the centre is open. ie – we are open for 11.5 hours per day (57.5 hours per week), However families only get CCB for 50 of those hours which makes those coming 5 days quite expensive for their 5th day.

Not in your report – Educating Families

Unfortunately, there is a great perception in the community that children need to have the ABC's and 123's pushed down their throats when they are 3-4 years old. There is much conversation on some of the "mummies" Facebook pages about how much better C&K are because they are "more structured" and children learn more. (I have posted an example post below". This is SO SAD. There needs to be greater information to families about what is best for children – PLAY. Many are under some illusion that pushing formalized, teacher-directed learning down their throats will benefit them, they don't understand how wrong this is.

Hi can someone please fill me in about kindy and what it's about? My son just turned 3 so I think he goes to kindy next year. He stays home with me and don't want to send him to kindy if it is just like being in childcare, is it more structured like school? Is it compulsory they attend? Is it thought to be beneficial in helping children to prepare for prep? Any info you have would be great thAnkyou 😊

Like · Comment · 17 hours ago near Jondaryan

They have a proper Kindy program for 4 year olds that prepare them for school 😊

17 hours ago · Like

c&k is AMAZING!! more structure than a daycare run one. as my daughter didnt start c&k til march...

17 hours ago · Like

My son was in the Kindy program at the lakes early learning center and he's learnt to write the alphabet, his name, count to 20 and so much more. We did lots of stuff with him at home also to reinforce what he was learning, I am glad I left him there as I was considering moving him to a "kindy". After looking into both I didn't feel the need to move him for one year. But that was just our personal choice.

17 hours ago · Edited · Like

Get him into a C&K centre. They run a structured program

17 hours ago · Like

get him on the waiting lists too! my daughter had her name down for almost 2yrs prior and didnt get in til someone left...

17 hours ago · Like

Prep has just become compulsory this year

17 hours ago · Like

Oh wow really ok thAnkyou

17 hours ago · Like

At c & k is it specific times? Like 9-3pm?

17 hours ago · Like

yes i believe its 8.30-2.30?

17 hours ago · Like

im still on holiday mode

17 hours ago · Like

Kindy – c&k or community is 9-2.30 2 days one week 3 the next if you have a Health care card it is free u will need to put your name down now for a spot next year or child care centers that are approved Kindy providers have a teacher and offer the Kindy program

17 hours ago · Like

C & k are great

Hmmm I might look into it a bit more, I'm pretty happy with the centre my 3yo is in but would be much better to save the \$80 per week

17 hours ago · Like

I had my daughter in a daycare centre and moved her to kindy as it has qualified teachers and they run a special play based learning program.

15 hours ago · Like

My son has just finished kindy at the [redacted] he was a months before his fourth birthday when he started. He had structured lessons, computer lab, library time, Chinese, music and PE. They teach them their numbers, basic maths, alphabet and how to spell and write their name as a lot of schools now expect that for prep ☐

15 hours ago · Like · 🔄 2

Tess was that just a couple days of week? ✕

15 hours ago · Like

You can either choose a five day fortnight, three days one week and two days the next or full time..

15 hours ago · Like · 🔄 1

Sharon Kneen Hi Bianca, there are a variety of Kindy's around to suit all different family circumstances. Some run 9-2.30 or 8.30 - 2.30 others run within long day care centres to suit working families. Some don't go through school holidays, some do. Some provide before and after kindy care, some don't. Long Day Care Centre Kindergartens are not a lesser program. They're just available all day, every day, every week so as to cater to every family. Everyone who is a Government Approved Kindergarten Program Provider essentially runs the same program and is underpinned by the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines. All will have Bachelor Qualified Teachers and all will prepare your child for life-long learning. It really depends on your personal circumstances whether a c&k suits your personal circumstances, or whether a Long Day Care setting is better suited to your family needs. Visit some Kindys and visit some long day care centres, and get a good feel for yourself - you'll know in your gut which place feels right for you. Good luck with your decision 😊

about an hour ago · Like

Sharon Kneen I also thought this little link about academic v's play based is useful. Some people really get caught up in the abc's and 123's and there's really much much more to Kindergarten than that 😊 <http://stayathomeeducator.com/academic-vs-play-based.../>



Academic vs. Play Based Preschool – What Research Tells Us

stayathomeeducator.com

Which is better? Skills based preschool programs or play based preschool program... [See more](#)

about an hour ago · Like · 🔄 1 · Remove Preview



Sharon Kneen I promise I'll stop in a minute ... there's another GREAT article - it's quite long, but it's BRILLIANT! If you make it all the way to the end it says "No, our children don't need more school. They need more play. If we care about our children and future generations, we must reverse the horrid trend that has been occurring over the past half century. We must give childhood back to children. Children must be allowed to follow their inborn drives to play and explore, so that they can grow into intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically strong and resilient adults. Happy Reading 😊 <http://www.independent.co.uk/.../give-childhood-back-to...>



Give childhood back to children: if we want our offspring to have happy, productive and moral...

www.independent.co.uk

I'm a research bio-psychologist with a PhD, so I've done lots of school. I'm a p... See more

about an hour ago · Like · Remove Preview

C&K is excellent! My eldest went there in 2012 after being at home with mum, my youngest starts there next wk 😊

29 minutes ago · Like