

Productivity Commission draft report

Additional view points

ECEC

- Single child based subsidy supported
- Important it include nannies with the mix of centre and home based services
- Subsidy paid directly to the provider very important and family pay gap only
- Deemed cost of childcare needs to be set at a 'realistic' cost of care
- \$300,000 at which assistance reaches minimum – what would Scenario 1 (total \$b) look like at either \$250,000 or \$200,000?
- ? \$300,000 is too high for assistance to reach the minimum.
- Families who are not working/studying or at risk are limited to 2 days max per week (even in occasional care) and any additional days/hours pay full fee

Viability assistance for rural, regional and remote areas

- Viability assistance program essential for rural, regional and remote areas
- ? ability to operate less than 48 weeks of the year (i.e. during school terms) as demand requires
- Ability to collocate services in an area when there is lower demand such as during school holidays. This would provide financial viability to the services.

Additional needs children

- Important that children at risk are provided with child care provision, but the care should be targeted, and have an emphasis on parental involvement (therapeutic childcare) to assist in parenting and attachment skills – not be just a drop off for children with no parental involvement in their care.
- Does the government provide the SECLS for only a limited time? Families are often vulnerable for more than 13 or 26 weeks.
- Is there a system of reporting on family progress with the SECLS established? i.e. linked with case workers from child protection or voluntary services such as family services.

Preschool

- Different approaches in each state.
- 15 hours universal access and \$ support continued is fully supported
- There will be a lot of work required for preschools to come under relevant education legislation rather than the NQF as the play based approach to the early years is not fully evident in primary school legislation