



Berri Regional Child Care Centre
1B Fiedler Street
BERRI SA 5343
Ph: 08 8582 3191 Fax: 08 8582 2136
Email: admin@brccc.com.au

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Child Care and Early Childhood Learning
Productivity Commission

To Whom it may concern,

I make reference to the first dot point under:
Draft Recommendations 7.2

‘Requirements for educators in centre-based services should be amended by governments such that:

- All educators working with children age birth to 36 months are only required to hold at least a certificate 3, or equivalent
- The number of children for which an early childhood teacher must be employed is assessed on the basis of the number of children in a service aged over 36 months’

Within my 25 years working in Child Care, I have observed and been a part of the struggles for our education and care services to be regarded by all as an integral community business staffed by educators professionally qualified to deliver a nationally recognised curriculum supporting the best care and education opportunities for children aged 0-5 years. And yet, thankfully, progress has been forward moving albeit with intermittent challenges where we have again needed to argue for the worth of well qualified educators in child care services. Again, we are faced with opposition; I cannot quite believe this is coming from such a comprehensive enquiry as that of the Productivity Commission.

‘Quality Care When You’re Not There’



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Further on from the above draft recommendation I read in the Report:

‘Staff qualifications are the aspect of quality that have been found to have the most substantial effect on children’s development outcomes’.

Please remember the adage “of a child’s first 5 years, the first 3 are the most important. And of the first 3 years the first year is the most important”.

Please reflect upon the number of South Australian Child Care Centres like ours where the (parent operated) Management Committee has made a commitment to employ educators qualified with a Diploma of Children’s Services in all primary care positions, supported and assisted by educators qualified with a Certificate 3 in Children’s Services.

Please stop undermining the progressive steps the Child Care sector has taken. Please see there is not an issue – we have it well solved – the draft recommendation is not a solution, nor does it have the children’s needs at its heart.

Yours sincerely,

Lisanne Jarvis
AdDipCS, DipT (ECE)

Director,
Berri Regional Child Care Centre Inc.