

To whom it may concern,

I am the Manager for Brisbane South Family Day Care,

I have some questions and concerns around extending child care options for families to include nannies etc. Whilst I am very supportive of families right to choice for child care provision options (in fact it is a passion for those working in family day care as we value being responsive to this on a daily basis), I have concerns about the ability for government to effectively monitor and support quality services, the implementation of the Early Years Learning Framework and relative legislation and law when there are even further options than there are now.

In addition, the recommendations of the paper does not clearly identify the obligations of responsibility, other than having qualifications, of the nanny. As we are very supportive of the current requirements of the legislation for family day care and child care centres because we have seen the benefits for children, we would like to see these same responsibilities and expectations for those working as nannies. It would seem fair, equitable and socially responsible to our children's future that all services that families utilise and are eligible for receipt of government funds (i.e. CCB, CCR) would have the same obligations and expectation.

Another concern that I have is that we already know that the department are finding it very challenging to monitor and support current service types that are in receipt of government monies and have an obligation for ensuring that government quality standards, regulations and laws are met. This has been indicatively apparent in the growth of services that do not have the necessary skills and knowledge to ensure that there is congruency between their obligations, responsibilities and their practice. I believe, therefore, that we should ensure that all current services have undertaken a process of accreditation and assessment under the new National Quality Standards before we explore further options for families. I believe that government has an ethical obligation to ensure families that all service options available to them are currently operating by meeting the requirements of early childhood and care in Australia.