

Neighborhood House!

Two major concerns :- Productivity Commission Draft Report

Draft Recommendation 7.2

"all educators working with children aged birth to 36 months are only required to hold at least a Certificate III or equivalent."

Draft Recommendation 7.5

'remove the requirement that persons with early childhood teacher qualifications must have practical experience for children age birth to twenty four months.'

These two recommendations are clearly a critical concern to both the Early Childrens Services Industry of Australia and further more to Australian families who rely on our services to care, nurture and educate their children in these vital early years.

Recommendation 7.2 requiring educators working with children under 3 to only hold a Certificate III qualification is without doubt a severe step backwards in the Early childhood industry in Australia and directly contradicts the National Quality Frameworks and Standards.

This recommendation not only ignores the widely documented research over recent years of the importance of brain development and the critical importance of highly qualified Educators and programs for the under 3 age range but it also puts our most vulnerable at significant risk.



Parents of children from birth to 3 years have a right to high quality and qualified Educators for their children's very specific and high dependency range of needs when it comes to these early informative years.

It is a well known and documented fact that children learn more in the first seven years than in any other seven year period of their life and this includes children from birth to 3 year of age.

In a recent OECD study "Quality Matters in Early Childhood Education and Care" it is clearly stated in the Executive summary that (quote), "Well-educated/trained staff is better to be able to create more effective work environments and increase the efficiency of other ECEC staff members contributing to improved pedagogical and professional quality and stimulating early child development"

The report goes on to say that research clearly states (quote); "Staff qualifications, initial education and professional development contribute to enhancing pedagogical quality, which is – ultimately – highly associated with better child outcomes."

"The practitioners ability to create rich, stimulating environments in ECEC is jeopardised when staff have inadequate and incorrect content and pedagogical knowledge."

Certificate III is our entry qualification for Educators and the report clearly states that those with lower levels of qualification (quote) "should work alongside those who are highly qualified."

We should ask ourselves – Is this why many countries, including Finland, Sweden and New Zealand have a requirement that you must have a Masters degree to work with children under 3?

In summary -: Quote from OECD study

"There is strong evidence that enriched stimulating environments and high quality pedagogy are fostered by better qualified staff and better quality pedagogy leads to better learning outcomes."

I invite anyone who would like to see this in practice first hand to visit our Early Childhood Centre and see the benefits of Bachelor trained educators working with under 3s.

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