

19th September 2016

Dear sir/madam

Re: Childcare Reform Package effects on Budget Based Funded Services

Currently Childcare is under review with several changes about to go forth to parliament. As Aboriginal Budget Based Funded services, we are concerned about the majority of our clients that will be effected with these changes.

BBF services across Australia have been funded since 1985, and have had the same level of funding with a CPI increase yearly during this time. We have been working hard over the past few years, in areas of Infrastructure, Governance, Curriculum and National standards to make sure we are ready for the changes to our service. We are currently awaiting the outcome of these changes to childcare, and our funding, to see what impacts this will have on our community.

Families that access our services are mostly non-working parents, low socio economic backgrounds and have access of up to 40 hours of children, dependant on their needs. With the new proposed changes, they may have as low as 12 hours a week of childcare. These changes may be in the affect where they may not meet an activity test, pg47 Section 12 (1) recognised Activity. For example one family whom currently use 3 days a week of care, have around 26 hours of care a week of quality care, and with the new activity test may only be eligible for 8 or less hours a week. These are also children that are vulnerable and disadvantaged, and will further put strain on services that are within the community.

We feel as a collective that Aboriginal Early Childhood is paramount in regards to early intervention, without money in this area, we will continue to have a gap with Health and Education for our younger generations.

We hope that you understand what we are trying to say, that we seek your support in making sure that these changes do not impact on our disadvantaged children and services within our community, and that you think holistically at all families not those whom are working.

Yours sincerely

Kym Bradbury on behalf of:

Kym Bradbury Director -Wynbring Jida (MACS) Incorporated, Whyalla South Australia

Joanne Smith – Director - Port Lincoln Children’s Centre, Port Lincoln South Australia

Mavis Miller - Director – Minya Bunhii Childcare, Ceduna South Australia