

Dear Committee,

I am writing to support the passage of the Early Years Quality Fund Special Account Bill 2013.

The early education and care sector needs this funding to ensure we can recruit and retain educators. The Senate is conducting an inquiry into the the Early Years Quality Fund Special Account Bill 2013.

This bill is designed to establish the Early Years Quality Fund - the \$300 million funding to assist services to attract and retain qualified professionals through wages increases.

There are issues with the funding and parts of it (including that it is only for long day care services, that not all long day care services will receive it and that it is limited to two years), are problematic. What about Preschools??

And why are Early Childhood teachers paid 15% less than all other teachers? Are Kindergarten teachers paid more than High School teachers? Of course not! Where is the equity in that?? Early Childhood teaching is just as important...actually probably MORE important!

My goodness, step into an Early Childhood teachers shoes and you will wonder why she keeps working...you will realise it's not because of the pay!!

We believe the sector needs to support moves that mean more government funding into our sector. For this reason we support the bill.

Regards

Amanda Lancaster

Director

Jacaranda Preschool