

Dear Committee,

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

I own a long day care centre. This financial year we have spent \$21764 in recruitment. On top of this we have had several entitlement payouts. Each educator we have lost has gone to a higher paid profession, or moved to primary teaching education. We can no longer afford to be passing these cost onto families.... they can not afford to have these cost included in their fees. Families are spending so much on fees it is almost not affordable to work. High staff turnover costs everyone.

This fund is the first step in solving this problem. It is the first step in building a strong workforce where educators can train, up skill, have families AND RETURN to their jobs. Educators can not afford to return to their jobs because the pay will not support their own family. There is something seriously wrong when this happens. The sector loses hundreds of dedicated educators due to the low wages. The fund will stop this.

We are highly trained teachers and educators working in long day care in stressful situations, with immensely regulated laws and legislation. We are accountable to families, ensuring the best outcomes for their children. We identify and protect children in need, monitor growth and development, create educational programs for each child in their critical years. We support families to be the best they can, include culture, social justice, inclusion, diversity, investigation and critical analysis into each and every day.

The early education and care sector needs this funding to ensure we can recruit and retain educators because without it there is no hope of a national QUALITY framework. A QUALITY framework can only be delivered by a QUALITY workforce.

Regards

Sent from my iPhone- Alice Voigt  
Moore Park Gardens Preschool & Long Day Care Centre