

To whom it may concern,

I have been working in the child care industry for over 25 years. I have a 4 year degree from Macquarie University and my job involves being the nominated supervisor or director of a long day care service that caters for 59 children a day. I have 13 staff and over 100 families I happily manage not to mention the dedication I give to the children at my service every day.

I work for a " private long day" service that is under the federal award. I haven't had a pay rise for many years and any wage rise I was entitled to in the old NSW state system was taken away when "work choices" forced me to change to a new modern award system because my employer was regarded as a corporation.

I get 4 weeks annual leave (no extras) I work 40-45 hours week because the job requires dedication. I don't get overtime and only get paid the minimum award wage. I get a token bonus at Christmas equal to 4 hrs pay but I buy my staff gifts because they get less than I do.

I have seen my peers in the department of education get pay rise after pay rise they earn as a minimum more than 15 thousand a year than I do. We used to get almost the same pay and they got the long holidays. To add insult to us when they retire they also get a great pension.

It's hard for me to complain too much as every body in our centre gets less pay than I do. I am 50 years old and will be working hard for many more years just to earn enough to retire.

I believe in a fair go and it is our time to get a fair go. Every person in child care is grossly underpaid. ECT 's are significantly underpaid and have been passed over despite the millions of dollars that rolls into the the cost of supporting child care thought the child care benefit.

Now the government sees fit to pay some educators more money but not all educators. I asked my employer whether they would support the staff at my centre and apply for the \$ 300 million funding. The answer is NO because they would be required to possibly open their books for inspection to government officials and all staff would need to be on a Enterprise agreement. I don't have an enterprise agreement and I can't force my employer to apply on my behalf.

Again like always I am powerless to get the pay rise I deserve because it's in the hands of someone else. First work choices stole our entitlements and froze our pay and now we have a system that will see me penalized again because I work for a private cooperation.

Why can't you just increase the pay for ECT educators and just pay it directly to the educator. Very simple and very fair.

As you well know a pay rise is long overdue for all educators, especially those 4 year trained teachers who are running big businesses, overseeing educational programs for 100's of children and getting paid the same as a graduate primary teacher in their first few years of teaching!

We deserve more! We deserve a fair go!

Many thanks

Di maher