



19/03/18

Committee Secretariat  
Red Tape Committee - Childcare  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretariat

### **Red Tape Review - NSW Local Government Children's Services Managers Network**

Council-run children services across NSW have a network which primarily includes managers of long day care, pre-schools, family day care, occasional care and outside of school hours care. NSW councils operate over 300 of these services and, in NSW, 91% of state/local government run services achieve a meeting or exceeding standard against the National Quality Standards (NQS) compared to 77% average across all services. The network meets approximately 6 times per year in Sydney to discuss issues affecting the sector and communicates frequently over email.

We commend the Parliament of Australia for conducting an inquiry into the effect of red tape on child care. In lieu of commenting on each of the terms of reference, we urge the committee to consider numerous previous reviews of the regulatory burden placed on childcare services in Australia and the differences between states. The Children's Services Managers from our network have previously provided comment on past reviews.

Previous reviews and studies which will provide insight for the committee include:

1. [Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority \(ACECQA\) studies](#)

To monitor changes in perceptions and experiences of regulatory burden between 2013 and 2015, ACECQA undertook a three-stage longitudinal study. ACECQA conducted a fourth regulatory burden study in 2017.

- [Report on NQF and Regulatory Burden – Wave I](#)
- [Report on NQF and Regulatory Burden – Wave II](#)
- [Report on NQF and Regulatory Burden – Wave III](#)

Results from the 2017 survey are available in Chapter 6 of the [Annual Performance Report 2017](#).

2. [Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning](#)

During the Productivity Commission's Inquiry during 2013 and 2014, they received 908 formal submissions and 1173 online comments. This resulted in a final report which was released by the Federal Minister for Social Services on 20 February 2015. Chapter 7 of Volume 2 is titled 'Regulation of ECEC providers'.



3. Australian Child Care Alliance (NSW) Annual Early Learning and Childcare Services Survey

The ACA (NSW) Annual Early Learning and Childcare Services Survey was conducted by an independent research organisation and was responded to by 31.48% of all services across NSW (that is 892 approved service providers, directors and nominated supervisors, who operate over 1,700 services).

The 2017 survey found that as a result of the NQF, 62% stated that staff were spending over a third of their time on administrative tasks, 51.23% stated it had a negative impact on costs to services, 58.9% stated that the change in ratios had a negative or large negative impact on the cost of running their centres, only 14% stated that the NQF had significant positive impact on children's educational outcomes, only 7% stated that the NQF had a significant positive impact on children's socialisation outcomes, and 61.52% stated that the NQF had a negative effect on time spent on paperwork.

We hope this has been of assistance to your inquiry.

Yours sincerely

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**Cumberland Council**