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Fiona O'Donnell
Company Director
OORAMA Education

7th June 2013

Standing Committee on Education and Employment

RE: Early Years Quality Fund Special Account Bill 2013

We raise our concerns regarding the Federal Government's Early Years Quality Fund Special Account Bill 2013. \$300 Million funding over a two year period is not enough to fund an increase of staff wages across the sector. This is dividing the Industry, favouring a small part of the sector, and discriminating against others.

We have services that are due to open across 2013 and 2014 that will be excluded from accessing any of the remuneration from the Quality Fund. As a result we will find these new and much needed services impossible to recruit staff and provide Care and Education for Children in much needed areas.

We raise our concerns that we will no longer attract staff to our existing services, and employees will leave to seek higher wages at the services that qualify for the fund. We believe we will be unable to provide High Quality Care and Education for children if this Bill is passed. We have already invested so much in the training and implementation of the National Quality Framework to improve standards. We have employed Educational Leaders to lead our teams and best practice. We have employed extra staff to meet the new ratios of Children to Educators, and up-skilled our workforce across the board. We have embraced the Quality changes and have worn the expense to do so. Our business and industry cannot afford to sustain anymore impost from Federal Government and nor can Families afford any further increases to fund wages increases for staff.

We implore the members of the Committee to examine the fundamental flaws of the proposed Bill, the ramifications of a deeply divided Education and Care sector, and the ongoing issues that we will face being excluded from the "First in First Served" race to access these funds. This Bill is unfair, inequitable and discriminatory and must be rejected in its current form.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona O'Donnell

Company Director

