

Name: Rachelle Tucker – Childcare Association of WA Inc Executive Officer

Address: Level 1/9 Bowman Street South Perth WA 6951

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Committee Secretary

Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committees

RE: Early Years Quality Fund Special Account Bill 2013

The objective of the Federal Government's Early Years Quality Fund Special Account Bill 2013 does not reveal the true facts of this \$300 million Grant Fund to be paid over a two year period nor does it consider the outcome it will have on the Education and Care sector.

As stated by the Prime Minister, this fund will provide grant funding to "up to 40% of the long day care sector" and paid on a "first in first served" basis. This is causing division in a sector that is already under stress and striving to meet the legislative requirements of the National Quality Framework.

We believe it is unfair and discriminatory for a government to create such an inequity through taxpayer funds by increasing pay for a minority of educators in the sector by up to \$6 **per hour** leaving over 60% of dedicated educators in the long day care sector receiving no increase at all.

As the Executive Officer for the Childcare Association of WA Inc, who represent Long Day Care, Outside School Hours Care and 3 Year old Kindy Private and not for profit, we are expressing the unfairness of the Early Years Quality Fund Grant and this Bill.

This Government has been we believe, quite deceptive with this Bill in the hope that it will pass through with no objection. There is no transparency or set criteria for the EYQF at this stage, with many services being bullied and promises being made if they join a 'certain organisation'.

As you will see, Childcare Association is not opposed to the Early Years Quality Fund, but has significant concerns about the proposed administration and allocation of the Fund. As such, we are calling for debate on the Bill to be delayed.

The advisory board does not include a board member from the largest Private Association, Australian Childcare Alliance, which we find appalling, yet does have representation from

the largest not for profit provider, Good Start, and a member of United Voice who have made it clear that they will only support their members.

If this Bill goes through the ramifications will be disastrous for the large majority of the Educators that will miss out, this will result in many Educators feeling undervalued and we believe result in an even higher turnover of staff.

How is rewarding a few fair and equal, how can a government believe only a few Educators are worth a pay increase.

The Early Years are so important in a child's development and we request that this Bill be rejected until the federal government agrees to distribute the Early Years Quality Fund Grant monies equally amongst **all educators** who care for, educate and support our nation's children - not just a select minority.

Yours sincerely,

Rachelle Tucker

Executive Officer – Childcare Association of WA Inc