

To Whom It may Concern,

I am writing to express my disgust at the inequity of this fund. Whilst it is an admirable idea to be topping up the wages of childcare educators, it is also a disgrace to be doing so for only a fraction of the childcare workforce.

I own two childcare businesses, Doncaster East Daycare and Kindergarten and Clever Kids Early Learning Centre, both in Melbourne. I am very fussy about staff quality and their work ethic – the girls at my centres are of the highest quality and deserve this pay increase just as much as any childcare worker – but it would seem that the chance of achieving this for them is far less than 50%. What sort of ridiculous system is this?

Has thought been given to the fact that this will create a two tier system of childcare? The best staff will strive to find work at those centres who are “lucky” enough to secure funds from the grant. Parents will prefer to enrol their children at those centres with funding – which will leave centres without funding struggling and only able to employ lesser quality staff.

Another unintended result could be that those centres without the funding may be forced to pay their staff the same pay rates as the funded centres in an effort to keep their better workers. This will ensure that fees at many centres absolutely skyrocket.

If this funding goes ahead the money must be spread amongst **ALL** workers, not just a lucky few.

Thanks,

Katrine Kelly,

Director/Proprietor,

Doncaster East Daycare and Kindergarten; Clever Kids Early Learning Centre.