

A Submission to:

The Standing Committee on Education
Employment and Workplace Relations
on Child Care in Australia

I write with hope my feelings about a very important subject may not be disposed of as unworthy.

I am concerned with the beginning of life for our new generation arriving each day into this community.

The harmful effect upon an infant caused by being separated from it's mother - has become known as maternal deprivation - literally depriving the baby of "Mothering" perhaps an old fashioned but very important word.

The beginning of life for an infant is dependant upon being able to gain enormously from "Mothering" not only for nourishment but for warmth and sound.

The artificial mild formulae are not the perfect substitute for breast milk - breast milk is the perfect miracle food for babies, being individually tailored to the baby's requirements. It's composition changes not only from week to week as the baby grows, but varies in content depending on time of day. Breast milk helps to protect the infant from a range of diseases, as well as having a roll in the prevention of asthma, early obesity and allergies, breast feeding also has a beneficial effect on jaw development and speech patterns.

For successful lactation to be established, it is essential that babies are not separated from their mother as it is not only World Health Organisation policy but also policy of the Australian Health Department that breast feeding is the preferred method of nutrition it is iniquitous that Australian Government policy is biased against these mothers who wish to care full time for their infants.

It is outrageous that substantial finance incentives are available to those who leave their babies in institutional care.

Government child subsidies appear to be aimed a separating mothers from their infants in clear contradiction to Government health policy.

Please consider giving more thought to this situation - our future generations.

I find it most inappropriate for reference to Child Minding Centres as an industry, this occurs when centres are listed on the Stock Exchange, and of course the owners are then committed to the shareholders to be profitable.

The protection and care of infants is far from being an industry in fact the responsibility and requirement is to give generous protection and softness to these small sensitive members of our own race. The child's development is entirely dependent upon the gentleness and

treatment they receive which allows them to develop at a normal rate, an infant is solely dependant upon sound and movement around them day by day.

The Infants brain continues to grow and develop during the first three to four years of their life and this important time is important and beneficial if spent with the mother.

Those who have the responsibility of caring for these children must have a specified amount of formal training, to prepare them for the very important position they will hold as an efficient and gentle carer for these dependent little people, the number of children should be limited for each carer to be effective, and to have a calming effect upon the child, who enjoys movement and sound to be slow and re-assuring as they become familiar with the person taking care. When the mother is available to care for her child this is the best option as they are bonded for all time which is a luxury for both mother and her infant.

Mrs S R Craig

This submission is also supported by O & A Mueller