

# **David J. Perrin**

23 January 2009

The Secretary,  
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee,  
[Ewer.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:Ewer.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Mr. Carter,

## **CHILDCARE INQUIRY**

The following is my submission on the terms of reference for your committee and in particular on the first term of reference on the method of taxpayer funding of childcare.

As a result of the disaster of the ABC Learning Centre where taxpayers' funds were distributed to an organisation which has now closed its doors thereby wasting some of these funds, funding should be now directed to parents and carers.

If funding was distributed directly through parents and carers this would allow parents the choice of how these funds were used in provision of childcare by themselves, not for profit agencies, family members, for profit agencies or in home service provision.

The direct funding to agencies is a flaw in the funding system that has been exposed by the ABC Learning Centre collapse.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee supports the payment for childcare directly to parents and carers.

It is not necessary for the Commonwealth to establish a national authority to oversee the industry if funding goes directly to parents and carers.

I would be happy to provide you with any further information.

Yours Sincerely,

David Perrin