
From: Pauline Bailey
Sent: Monday, 3 June 2013 10:19 AM
To: Committee, EE (REPS)
Subject: Early Years Quality Fund

Categories: Yellow Category

Good morning,

I would like to suggest that instead of the \$300 million going towards wages for a 2-year period (if it even lasts that long), I would like to see the money be utilised to upskill and train the early years educators. Funding could go towards training educators about how to implement the Early Years Learning Framework; ensuring educators and owners are familiar and competent at understanding and implementing the National Quality Standards and Regulations; introduce a bridging program for Early Years educators to undertake a qualification which can allow them to teach the Kindergarten program. This would allow an educator who is already familiar with the child care requirements (do opens and closes, wipe runny noses, do cleaning, etc), to teach a Kindergarten program yet would need to further their training should they wish to work as a registered teacher within a school environment. The EYLF, NQS, NQF and Regulations were introduced at the beginning of 2012 and Services had a very short period of time to read, understand and implement these new procedures and documents.

The child care industry is finally working together and are happily sharing ideas. Don't go and segregate the industry by bringing in a fund that will create animosity amongst workers because one service gets the funding yet another service doesn't.

I think it is already evident that child care educators don't do 'child care' for the money. We do it because we love nurturing and watching children grow and develop.

Put the funding back towards allowing services to claim funding for including children with additional needs into the Kindergarten program. Services are only able to claim one or the other – Inclusion Support or Kindergarten funding. Do you know how difficult it is to include a child with additional needs into a Kindergarten program without a support person? These children deserve the same opportunities as every other child.

Put the funding towards the Federal Awards. Give ALL educators a \$1.00 per hour increase. This would prove to us educators that you do value our industry.

What are the Government's plans should the \$300 million run out over the 2-year period? Are services expected to foot the bill?? If part of the funding agreement is that services are not allowed to increase fees to support the Early Years Funding, then what are services meant to do – especially if EBA's are designed to guarantee employees an extra pay increase?

Support our industry, don't shame us!

I thank you for welcoming feedback and comments from the early years sector.

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Childcare Nominated Supervisor

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