



From:
Sent: Monday, 3 June 2013 12:46 PM
To: Committee, EE (REPS)
Subject: Submission: Inquiry into the Early Years Fund Special Account Bill 2013

Categories: Yellow Category

The Secretary
House Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Please find below my submission to the House Standing Committee on Education and Employment's Inquiry into the *Early Years Fund Special Account Bill 2013*.

I agree to my submission being made public by the committee.

Yours sincerely

Natasha Muller

As a early childhood educator , I know that increasing educator pay is at the core of fixing the crisis in childcare.

As an Educator and a parent of a 3 year old son, I wish to stress the importance of a stable, qualified and professional sector that embraces children, to care for them and to educate them. I have been in the industry for nearly 20 years and I have struggled financially - I have multiple qualifications that I have achieved which are a requirement to work in the sector, I have paid for these out of my own pocket, I have a mortgage, I have a child to raise, I have child care fees, I have day to day bills - I continue to struggle on this wage, yet my love of working with children never lessens, to work with them, to assist them in becoming the best person they can be. I constantly further my education, extend my knowledge and feel this is not recognized. We are expected to be of a high standard yet are not acknowledged for what we achieve financially.

As a mother it pains me to see the staff turn over in the sector, my son has struggled emotionally as the staff that he bonds with can not stay on due to the wage conditions. Working in the industry, coming home with a child who tells me he misses his regular teacher who has moved on tugs at my heart strings enough. We are supposed to be scaffolding these children, helping them become confident, assertive adults, yet on an all too regular basis children like my own cry at arrival at child care because staff have changed again, new faces have come on board... How is

this a positive experience? How can we continue to go on this way? I want my child to enjoy his time in child care not scream on the way there as he has no bond with the new staff member. Please for all the beautiful children out there and the dedicated professional staff - please recognize us for the professionals that we are. Please look at the future of Australia - the children we are caring for today and make the right choice of supporting the subsidy of our wages.

Kind Regards

Natasha Muller

I would like to thank the committee for considering my submission, and those of other parents, educators and supporters of a better early childhood education system, and call on the committee to support this much needed first step to improving the lives of early childhood educators, and ensuring better quality care for our children.

Natasha Muller