



The Early Years fund has caused our Sydney based early learning service great concerns in regards to its inequity and lack of detail.

We fear that the dedicated and extremely hard-working staff will possibly miss out on receiving any portion of the fund as the \$300m will only reach a minority of educators in the profession. Enterprise bargaining agreements for small services can take weeks and even months to prepare. To have this as a requirement to qualify for the fund payment will prove difficult for many providers. Plus there are no strict details as to what is required to be eligible for funding.

Unions are pushing their way into services using the threat of the fund to make us sign up - a tactic which our staff find appalling as the fund should be distributed evenly no matter what or if a union is joined.

It is so easy to do the calculations and show that from the \$3/hour increase for Cert III educators, and even more for Diploma educators (which by next year will be half the educators as per new regulations), will cover a very small minority of educators.

We question the selection process of how services will be eligible and insist it must be a fair process for all, no matter the size or 'union power' of the service they proudly represent.

The selection of the committee has already shown biases and under-representation from certain industry bodies - and this is only the beginning of the process.

Plus we wonder what is to happen at the end of the 2 years when this fund ceases? Are we expected to take a wage reduction?

Or do we expect to ask the parents to once again foot the bill for changes in legislation by increase child care fees? If some educators will be receiving the \$3 increase and others won't, well it's only clear to say that the families will be paying the wage gap - as educators certainly won't stand for having two separate wage schemes.

What a shame, that means child care fees to increase once again :(

Michelle Bouabaid
Director

All Star Early Learners

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