



Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**RE: Early Years Quality Fund Special Account Bill 2013**

This proposed Bill is grossly unjust and unfair to the Childcare Centre providers who strive to provide high quality services, the stability and equity in the Childcare Industry, and most importantly to the talented and devoted Educators that do the amazing work of nurturing and developing our children for us while we are at work. All of the negative impacts from this legislation to the above stakeholders will unavoidably have flow through effects on children and families.

This is exceptionally poor quality legislation that clearly does not have the highest interests of the children, the Educators or the Industry as its core focus, and needs to be greatly adjusted if it is to achieve its stated objectives.

The proposal is completely at odds with the various current Industrial Relations legislation such as the anti-discrimination and equal opportunity legislation, as well as the aim of the Fair Work Act 2009 which was to create an Industrial Relations system which balances the needs of employees, the unions and employers.

The proposed Fund and legislation has been presented in a way that from a general business perspective, is very misleading and does not have any basis in equity and fairness or transparency and accountability, which are supposedly the ideals that are to be embraced in the current economic environment and through legislation and best practices.

This industry is so important both for our children's welfare now as well as future economic implications that flow on from current childcare practices. This profession needs to be valued and supported in a real way and not used to generate conflict and division.

The objective of the Federal Government's Early Years Quality Fund Special Account Bill 2013 does not reveal the true facts of this \$300 million Grant Fund to be paid over a two year period nor does it consider the outcome it will have on the Education and Care sector.

As stated by the Prime Minister, this fund will provide grant funding to "up to 40% of the long day care sector" and paid on a "first in first served" basis. This is causing division in a sector that is already under stress and striving to meet the legislative requirements of the National Quality Framework.

I believe it is unfair and discriminatory for a government to create such an inequity through taxpayer funds by increasing pay for a minority of educators in the sector by up to \$6 *per hour* leaving over 60% of dedicated educators in the long day care sector receiving no increase at all.

As a parent of a child attending a long day care service, I am expressing the unfairness of the Early Years Quality Fund Grant and this Bill.

My child's educators play a vital role in my child's development and I request that this Bill be rejected until the federal government agrees to distribute the Early Years Quality Fund Grant monies equally amongst ***all educators*** who care for, educate and support our nation's children - not just a select minority.

Yours sincerely,  
**Lee Ducker**