

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House the withdrawal of Federal funding support for occasional childcare services.

For thousands of families in Australia alternate short term care arrangements for their children is neither a financial or practical option. The withdrawal of this funding will remove a parent's option of accessing occasional care at hundreds of community run centres, resulting in more children forced out of formal and regulated care.

This directly disregards the committed aim of all Australian Governments to ensure safe and quality controlled 'early childhood care' nationwide.

We therefore ask the House to support the immediate reinstatement of the \$12m in occasional care removed in the Federal budgets of 2010/11 and 2011/12.