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To whom it may concern,

I am writing, as a provider of Early Childhood Services for 0-6yrs, to air my views on the current state of this industry.....this IS an industry, NOT A VOCATION!!

1. The proposal of the current government to offer wage rises for selected workers to be paid for from tax payers money surely cannot be legal? How can some workers be given government funds when others will not be able to access these tax payers funds? This would be the grossest mis-use of taxpayers money that we have seen since the debacle of the insulation offers or the solar heating rebates.....another ploy to make government officials seemingly providing "extra funding"

2.The so called national standards are another aspect of childcare which needs to be addressed immediately....how can anything be a NATIONAL standard when laws and regulations are not the same throughout the country? I find this very difficult to comprehend and extremely unfair especially to service operators in NSW where the standards are vey much higher than elsewhere in Australia.....either way, MAKE THESE A TRUE NATIONAL STANDARD!

3. The situation involving Early Childhood Teachers has now reached catastrophic proportions....graduates are simply not available and for the few who do reply to advertisements most are inexperienced, have little knowledge of the EYLF and state openly that they would prefer to work in schools. There has been an interim policy in place for around 7 years for services to obtain waivers for teachers....surely that in itself should set alarm bells ringing with the powers that be! I feel that my service should be able to offer a career path for those wishing to persue from Cert 111 Trainee through to University without all the rules and regs which are so constrictive at the moment.

4The 50% cash rebate currently given to workers to help pay for fees is another area which needs to be scrutinised.....parents do not have to prove, via a centre reciept, that they have actually paid their fees so technically..the opportunity exists for them to make money from this rebate...surely a better system would be similar to Hi-caps where the rebate actually does lower the fee-payable amount

5 The new regs are causing great concern for staff with all the extra work which ranges from constantly updating and recording policies to listing times when they are with the children and times when they are at luch, morning tea, programming or otherwise away from their rooms.

There are many more issues which need to be addressed in the childcare industry, issues which affect children, families and staff. Workers are indeed leaving the industry but NOT because of monetry concers but finding that they cannot cope with all the aspects which plague their day.

A staff member said to me the other day "When do the children and I get to play together?"

Please contact me at the above email or the following phone number for further discussions of any sort as I would really like to be involved/  
The childcare industry needs to be blown apart...Indeed it almost needs a commission to investigate all aspects.

Yours faithfully

Joan Holmes,