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**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, 31 May 2013 9:31 PM  
**To:** Committee, EE (REPS)  
**Subject:** Submission on the Early Years Fund

**Categories:** Yellow Category

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my extreme concern at the provisions and implementation of the Early Years Quality Fund. My colleagues and I believe that the Labor government have just given us this "opportunity" as a quick fix solution without thinking about the implications for those extremely hard workers who will miss out. What about those who will return to poor wages at the end of the scheme?

My colleagues and I are extremely hard workers and we believe that this scheme is severely unjust and unfair. To provide funding to approximately 40 percent of the sector based on certain "conditions" is appalling. What about those other extremely hard workers who do exactly the same job?

We certainly did not choose this career for the wages, we chose it for the love of the children and teaching them lifelong learning skills. The extra demands of the new National Quality Framework add to our already tight rules and regulations and more paperwork takes us away from teaching, using our valuable time simply to just meet requirements.

It does not surprise me at all that 180 educators leave the sector each week as I have even taken a second job to make ends meet. I hold a degree in Early Childhood and could be earning \$10000 plus more a year by moving to the public school sector. How is this fair? Same degree, \$10000 less pay simply because people see us just as "babysitters!"

Please give us a fair go! we asked for 1.9 billion dollars worth of funding and received 300 million for a small percentage of our sector for only 2 years! This will create extra staffing problems with staff moving to centres who are receiving the pay rise and putting extra stress on centres who are losing staff. Parents already pay more fees than they should, the costs are becoming ridiculous and they cannot afford to pay more to increase staff wages.

Please take this into consideration and make a well balanced and informed decision. I'm sure that I'm speaking on behalf of every Early Childhood Educator in Australia.

Yours Sincerely,

Melinda Bashford  
Early Childhood Teacher