



Cnr Sir Fred Schonell Drive & Keith Street, St Lucia Qld 4067

Tel / Fax (07) 3365 2840

ABN 33 069 402 307

Postal address – C/- PO Box 1194, Stafford Qld 4053

Formerly - 28 Munro Street St Lucia QLD 4067

Early Years Quality Fund Submission

Child Care Educators work tirelessly to ensure they deliver a quality age appropriate education and care program for the children in their care and certainly deserve a pay increase. These children are our nation's future.

The way in which this Early Years Quality Fund is being rolled out, in my opinion, is not the correct way. Why should some educators receive a much needed pay rise and not others?

Our small community child care centre employs only twelve educators of which only three are members of United Voice. The union representative who came out insisted on speaking with every educator and telling them if they did not sign up on that day, they would cause our centre to miss out on the pay rise. Our educators get paid minimum wage and cannot afford an additional cost every fortnight, in order to possibly receive a pay increase.

My concern with this Early Years Quality Fund is that it is inequitable. It almost seems like a lottery. Some centres will receive the funding and others will not. This will cause quite a bit of unrest between centres. Educators will feel they have received the higher rate of pay because their centre is providing a higher quality of education and care, and this may not be the truth. If our centre does not receive the funding, how do I tell my educators that the Government is not supporting them? Do they not work just as hard as everyone else? How do we attract quality educators? Will our educators then find jobs that pay more, because their worth isn't recognised? What happens when the money runs out? How do we then pay our educators the higher rates of pay? Parents are already paying a premium for quality child care, but if centres then have to continue the higher rates of pay, parents simply will not work, leaving educators without a job.

The educators at The Munro Centre have been through the floods of January 2011. Our centre was demolished and most of our resources lost. Since then we have operated from demountables (initially sharing the rooms with another larger child care service) in a car park. Our educators have worked hard in order to continue to provide much needed quality child care and education. The whole situation has been enormously stressful and difficult, yet they stay because this is their passion. We received no Government support during or after the floods, and so this whole Early Years Quality Fund debacle is like rubbing salt onto our already inflamed wounds.

The Government needs to see sense and provide higher wages for all Child Care Educators, not just some. We do applaud the 2.6% increase to the minimum wage; it just needs to be a little higher across the board, not a whole lot for some and nothing much for others.

Yours truly,

Sue Wakem
Nominated Supervisor
The Munro Centre