



Committee Secretary,

I wish to make a submission regarding the Early Years Quality Fund. Our service has some concerns about the funding. Our main concern is in relation to what happens after the two year timeframe and if our organisation will be obliged to carry on these additional payments. Our organisation is a not for profit long day care centre and we aim to maintain reasonable fees for families attending our service. If our organisation was obliged to carry on these payments after Government funding ceases, it would be inevitable that fees for families would increase significantly to absorb these additional payments. Other options would include reduction of staff which will result in lower educator to child ratios and ultimately reduced quality of care and education for children.

There is also concern about who will receive the funding and how this will affect employee harmony within our centre if some staff receive it but others do not. Centres with access to funding may attract staff from other centres who do not have access to the additional payments and this could create retention issues.

There are confusing messages being circulated from centre to centre about who is getting the funding and who is not. Some Centres are saying that they have already been granted the payment increases due to the fact that their employees have signed up with an industry union. Others are saying union membership is not a prerequisite for funding eligibility.

The idea of supplement wage increases of \$3.00 per hour sounds attractive in theory but there is concern that the Early Years Quality Fund may cause more harm than good for the sector overall.

Regards

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