

Submission Number: 88

Date Received: 8/6/2013



To whom it may concern

For a democratic society, I am appalled at the lack of democracy in the proposed Early Years Quality Fund. Where do I start in explaining?

I am the owner of an independent long day care service which due to our professional and passionate staff, provides quality care to over 130 children and 110 families.

I have two simple questions that concern me enormously about the impact this project will have on my families:

1. Will my staff look for alternate jobs if I am not approved to receive the funding?
2. Will I be able to attract staff in the next two years if I am not approved to receive the funding?

In summary, over 120 families could be enormously impacted if our centre does not receive funding and if staff choose to leave the centre in search of higher pay. As a centre, we may now have the combined pressure of not being able to pay staff in line with others in the industry and consequently the loss of staff, plus the pressure of meeting increased staffing qualification requirements and ratio regulations under the NQF.

What does this type of project do for our industry?

The unions voice in this proposal is too driven towards membership and enterprise bargaining agreements supposedly with the best interests of the employee in mind. So much for the unions existing to help all employees – they are only considering a small portion of the employee base – rewarding them significantly and letting the others miss out.

Where is the equality in the distribution of this \$300 million and why is it so much \$ for so few? Why not reduce the \$ amount and spread it across the entire industry?

Why is there not an independent child care association member on the committee? What a joke that the line up of members on the committee include the likes of the CEO from Goodstart! This can only mean to the average observer that Goodstart is guaranteed approval or at least will have an incredible advantage in the application process. How much of the funding will Goodstart chew up?

I guess my disappointment in this project is expressed by questions. Is this democracy or is this another form of government?