



To whom it may concern,

I am frustrated by the lack of industry consultation or in fact the lack of sense that has occurred for this funding to be allocated in the first place. The fact that this funding will not deliver the anticipated wage increase to all staff in the sector shows a clear lack of planning on an industry already in crisis.

How do you separate one centre from another, one group of staff from another in terms of their quality or need? I have little confidence that the panel will be able to come up with a fair formula for allocation of this funding. The task is impossible. The outcome here is the majority of early childhood educators will miss out on a wage increase that has been hyped up by the government via the media and the unions.

We operate two centres. If I apply for the funding at one centre and do not receive it and then am lucky to be one of the 27% of centres in Australia that receive it for the second I will have to match wages for both groups of staff. This will be a direct passed on cost to parents. Isn't this what you were trying to avoid to begin with?

The industry will have to respond with wage matching to retain excellent staff and parents will foot the bill. Asking centres to show fee restraint who receive funding and then leaving the other less fortunate centres (which is the majority of centres in Australia) to try to match wages is going to nothing more than drive up the cost of care. You do not need to be a rocket scientist to realise you have just created a two-tiered childcare system. Will this be taken into consideration when we are given our ratings by ACEQA?

Please use some common sense to halt the roll out of this funding until after the election when the newly elected government has more time to consult, plan and then implement effective strategies to stop the exodus of childcare workers out of this sector.

Libby Klingberg
Approved Provider
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