

ANONYMOUS 16959 - New submission from Early Years Strategy - Public Submissions

As a Diploma Qualified Early Childhood Educator studying both Early Childhood and Primary Education I understand how beneficial and necessary Early Childhood Education can be. However, I also understand what it is like in a centre as well as the needs and development of young children. Parents are the first and primary educators of children. It is so much more beneficial for children to be with their parents from 0-4 years particularly. The push for subsidised early childhood education and getting women back into the work force doesn't support the parents who want to stay at home with their children. The Parents Collective has been sharing on their Instagram about having part time roles become more normalised and I believe payments for parents to educate their children at home. This would be great to see. My husband is highly educated and changed careers to work full time at a factory operating machinery and being a general hand to spend more time with our daughter when she was born. It would be wonderful to see widespread change so someone like him doesn't have to give up his career to see his child before she goes to bed. The input of both mother and fathers are so incredibly important for children's development, playing different roles psychologically and having a long term affect on self esteem, mental health and the behaviours of children. For example people who have a loving, involved father have lower rates of obesity, higher self esteem and learn how to take healthy risks more than children who do not. In conclusion would love to see an option for parent payments instead of Long Day Care, especially for early childhood educators who are educating our own children. Additionally could be incredibly beneficial to our society to normalise part time / shared roles so mothers and fathers could keep children with family and both contribute to their early childhood education and care somewhat more evenly.