

ANONYMOUS 17100 - New submission from Early Years Strategy - Public Submissions

While I think it's amazing all the work that has happened so far. I can't help but notice centres are crying out for staff since the changes to the roles of Early childhood educators.

It has started to shift from less time with the child and more about documenting their progression.

Note, families aren't overall interested unless they are after their child to super succeed or if their child has developmental delays.

My submission is based on the rate of pay for early childhood educators. The level of pay has remained next to unchanged, yet their level of work and stress has gone up exponentially. Furthermore the introduction to higher CCS caps are amazing for families with IHC but not so much when it comes to Centre-based care. As this again, increases the workload of the educators who have not seen any benefits of this system (Higher influx of children because wealthier families can now put their children in). It helps the parents, which again is highly beneficial, but from the view of someone who does IHC, this is going to produce more burnout and make more educators quit.

There is no reward for harder work. The argument within centres is currently if they quit they can become a disability support worker for double the pay. However those who have also completed their bachelor are question if they should go become a teacher as the work is now comparable to a teacher with half the pay.

The industry is bleeding staff members until there are none left.

Another issue is that the industry has funding for children with additional needs, however pays them less than an educator. From the view of a independent disability support worker, I would love to help, however I don't see ANY benefit whatsoever dropping from \$62.17 an hour down to \$28 for the same work, if not more due to sketchy workplace practices.

I hope that Early Childhood Educators wages are being considered when making these implementations. Or else come July, if there are no changes the economy has a whole will feel the dramatic effects of lower educator numbers. It won't happen overnight, but it will be felt within that financial year.

Thank you.