

17403 - New submission from Early Years Strategy - Public Submissions

Current educator:child ratios in ECEC have no educational-evidenced basis.

Current Educator:child ratios should be rigorously analysed. The analysis should be based on likely future community (15-35 year time frame) benefit economically and socially. The analysis should not be based on short term economic outcome for meeting labour force requirements, ECEC business owners, and shareholders.

There is presently a claim of a shortage of educators, but if that appears so it is caused singly and together by: a.) ratios are inadequate for the needs of many cohorts (leading to educator overload, stress and consequent resignations and loss to the industry); and b.) pay levels for educators are inadequate. Pay levels should be commensurate with the society's importance of the worker's function. Education is a high value contribution to society.

If the current ECEC industry 'cannot afford' a higher number of educators per child, and pay them at a higher pay rate, then one should consider there is market failure and the government should step in and fund, and manage, all ECEC to the benefit of the society which they represent – government of the people, by the people, for the people.