

**ANONYMOUS 17468 - New submission from Early Years Strategy - Public Submissions**

I continue to be appalled by the difficulty of finding childcare. Ultimately there is no choice in where you send your child, you will have to take what you can get, whichever ill-suited centre happens to have a space, after being on waitlists for years. You will then drive far and wide to drop off your child only to return home and despair because you couldn't actually return to your place of work because you couldn't find care soon enough and had to let the position go. This affects women, in the majority, resulting in greater gender inequity; pay gaps, little in terms of superannuation as well as an inability to progress in their careers. That's just a start. Let's fix this- pay our childcare workers well for what is quite possibly one of the most challenging roles out there (yes, it's much harder than your office job to whoever reads this - you know that).

Let's encourage more fantastic people into the sector and improve outcomes for all.