

ANONYMOUS 17472 - New submission from Early Years Strategy - Public Submissions

Raising a child in Australia has highlighted the inequities of our system, particularly towards women. Our country relies on the unpaid labour of women and their families. I am fortunate to have the support of family, but they lives interstate and therefore care for my child is limited. There are not enough flexible, affordable child care options available. Child care centres at at capacity and getting a place can take months. My child is in care one day a week while I wait for another day to become available so that I am able to work more. My husband works 4 days a week and cares for our child on another day, which I work. Research shows that the best place for a child to be, at least until age 2, is at home with an adult that wants to be there. The WHO also identifies breastfeeding babies to be optimal for the first two years of life. Our childcare and parental leave models do not support this. Nannies and babysitters are not subsidised care models in Australia (see France). Maternity leave does not cover mandatory pregnancy related appointments during pregnancy. As fathers continue to accrue leave, women take sick leave and unpaid leave for pregnancy related matters which is not appropriate.