

## **17457 - New submission from Early Years Strategy - Public Submissions**

92% of a child's learning happens before they start school except in Australia our early learning industry is not highly respected or regarded in the greater community and more so by the government. Moreover, Early Learning environments are often seen as a service providing babysitting rather than holistic development. This is reinforced by comments parliamentary ministers make in regards the industry.

Early years professionals especially teachers are poorly paid and poorly respected. These teachers have universities degrees and yet the award is once of the lowest for any tertiary educated position.

There are huge staffing shortages across the country, reflecting the poor conditions and wages in this industry. Yet there are many privatised facilities making large profits.

Waitlists for quality care centres are extensive, with many families unable to access the amount of care they wish to enrol their children into. Staffing shortages do not help this, as not all centres can run on full capacity due to staffing ratios.

Childcare is expensive. Most people (especially those getting subsidised care) are accessing care so they can work and contribute to our economy (and pay taxes). Making childcare more accessible for those middle income families where both parents are educated would be greatly benefit for society.