

### **17186 - New submission from Early Years Strategy - Public Submissions**

Access to Early Childhood education should be mandatory and fully subsidised. Where access is not available (i.e. not enough places/hours/days as a family would like or perhaps anything less than full time) then carer(s)/parent(s) should be compensated for fulfilling the caring/educating role for the remaining time.

I have a 3 year old that now attends daycare 4 days/week, but my 18 month old was only recently able to get 1 day per week (on a Monday - so generally also interrupted by public holidays), whereas we'd prefer her to go 3 days, eventually 4 days like her sibling. I'm a freelance photographer and am therefore only able to work when both of my children are in care. This kind of scenario (not enough care) is the same for almost every mother I know (or other parent, but almost exclusively the burden of care lands on the mother in my anecdotal experience).

Additionally, childcare should be fully subsidised; as a stable, caring and safe environment for our children is the interests of our whole society and future economy. Child care workers should also be paid better to reflect the important role they have in our society, to attract highly skilled individuals, and to ensure the retention of these professionals.

Child care centres should operate on a non-commercial model and profits in this sector should not be allowed. The institutions that operate with profits in mind are the factory farms of childcare and are just waiting to be investigated for their poor practices that do not have children's welfare in mind above box-ticking (if that).