

To whom it may concern.

In regards: **Expenditure on Children in the Northern Territory Productivity Commission Submission.**

The Katherine Isolated Children's Service (KICS) is seeking a continuation of increased Federal Government funding to secure its future as a mobile playgroup, parent information service to geographically isolated and socially isolated children and families in the Northern Territory. This service has been in operation for 30 years delivering play-based learning to children in the bush.

As a parent, I have had first-hand experience in rearing and educating children in geographical isolated areas of the NT. Teaching one's own children back in the day of two-way radio link up to school of the air and postal correspondence lessons was a challenge and a big responsibility. Today, that responsibility is still as big, even with advanced satellite technology bringing education through schools of the air to the Interactive Distance Learning (IDL) era: on- line, with immediate teacher to student interaction. Nevertheless, the responsibility of educating geographically isolated children still falls on parents regardless of new technologies. From my experience, the Katherine Isolated Children's Service inspire and support these families as they take on the education journey with their children.

KICS not only provides children with learning and social interaction opportunities, it strengthens that link of support and encouragement to families during a time when parents need as much help as they can get. KICS is reassuring, dependable and an asset to these families.

We need to keep KICS out there, doing what they do in some of the most remote areas of this country: making a difference, being a part of the education team as they bring the joy of learning through play (education disguised as fun!) to the hundreds of children and their families that look so forward to their visits.

I appeal to the Government for continued, increased funding to this unique and beneficial service.

I thank the Productivity Commission for this opportunity and its consideration of my submission.

Yours sincerely

Royelene Hill

Life Member Katherine Branch

Isolated Children's Parents' Association

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