

Childcare and Early Childhood Learning  
Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
Canberra ACT 2601

[childcare@pc.gov.au](mailto:childcare@pc.gov.au)

**RE: INQUIRY INTO CHILDCARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING**

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is with respect and appreciation of the Australia Government that I write this submission to the public inquiry into childcare and early childhood learning. It is admirable that our Government would take the time to seek the opinions of its people.

**Structured Early Childhood Education**

I would like to discuss the availability of structured early childhood education. Child Care Centres are generally of a high standard and this looks to only improve with the implementation of the NQS. My daughter is enrolled in an impressively constructed child care centre that goes well beyond my expectations of what a centre would require to be. However, I feel that the bottleneck in a child's development is the lack of an educational system that is deliberately developed to prepare them for understanding and excelling at Primary School education and beyond. To restate my point, I am very impressed with the care that children receive but I feel there is need for improvement in childhood development and education.

I am an Australian Citizen but I was born in Singapore in 1982. I initially immigrated to Australia with my family at the age of 6 but have moved between these two countries several times during my childhood. Thus, I have had equal exposure to both education systems in and have seen firsthand the advantages and disadvantages of these two different approaches to education.

Education is heavily prioritised in Asia and I have seen several child care centres that offer a well structured approach to early childhood education as part of the care provided. The children are not only looked after while their parents are working but they are educated through a specifically designed learning system which is integrated into playtime. This system follows a learning plan that results in the child developing essential skills in areas such as English, Mathematics and Science. Studies have shown that because these children have a deeper understanding of the core principles of these subjects, they do much better in school, university and eventually in their careers.

I firmly believe that such a system would be of benefit to Australia. I feel that children in schools are struggling to understand the curriculum because they have not developed a strong educational foundation prior to Year 1. The lack of proper understanding is carried all the way through their education where increasingly complex principles are continually built upon a shaky foundation. If the standards of childhood education could be raised, just imagine what the next generation of Australians could accomplish.

I have been considering starting a child care centre that offers the level of education that I have described. However, such a centre would have significantly higher start-up and running costs that

would have to be passed onto parents of enrolled children. I ask that the Government consider a higher CCB payment for parents who enrol children in centres that offer a higher standard of childhood education. I would also welcome the opportunity to further discuss the childhood education systems I have mentioned in this letter.

Yours Faithfully,

Darren Woon

24 January 2014