



Submission for the Productivity Commission into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning.

GPO Box 1428  
Canberra City 2601

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014

Night Nannies is a national Nanny Agency in operation since 2005. The main services being provided are evening and overnight services.

The majority of our client base is families with children between the ages of newborn to 12 years old. Families utilise our services for the following reasons:

- Emergency care - child is ill and unable to attend usual form of care.
- Families who work hours outside of regular centre based and family day care hours.
- Families who are unable to access regular care due to wait lists or lack of child care in their area.
- Families who have children with special needs.
- Families with infants under the age of two years.
- Families using a combination of home based (nanny) and Centre based child care.
- Families with English as a second language or have specific religious or cultural customs and want a nanny who is from that culture or religion.
- Families where the parent has an illness or disability and the child is unable to be cared for in other forms of care outside of the home, the family may not be eligible for the Government funded in home care scheme or the waiting list is more than 12 months.
- Families with infants where the parents need postnatal support due to varying family circumstances such as Mother has postnatal depression or recovering from a medical procedure such as a caesarean.
- Families with children who are having sleep difficulties and require guidance and respite.
- Families utilising a nanny as their main form of childcare.
- Families needing a nanny to attend private functions.
- Families needing a proxy parent due to work commitments, health issues or family matters.
- Services to various Government departments needing emergency respite care for families receiving Government care and assistance such as child protection, Veterans Affairs and disability services.
- Corporations needing care for their employees' children during specific work events.

Night Nannies is also a proud member of The Australian Nanny Association and has been putting in place the standards required to maintain membership over the last 12 months.

Night Nannies is meeting a gap that is not able to be met by the current Government funded child care services.

We also receive calls on a daily basis from Parents needing day or night child care but cannot afford nanny services.

Many of the families calling Night Nannies make statements about how they are confused in regards to child care benefit and that they are frustrated because they are unable to make contact with the Family Assistance Office due to phone wait times or are told conflicting information.

Night Nannies believes that families are trying to meet the demands of work or returning to work, child care, financial commitments and their day to day family life.

We have noticed that since commencing in 2005 that our services have grown in demand. We believe that this is because work hours have changed and are no longer the traditional 9am-5pm roles, pressure to work longer hours from employers and Mothers returning to work sooner to maintain their career.

Night Nannies often refers clients to the existing Government funded in home care scheme and also provides services to these clients whilst they are on the in home care waiting lists.

The in home care scheme is an excellent service that should be expanded into the mainstream approved child care services. The In Home Care Scheme should come under the National Quality Framework so that all families when needed can utilise this service in combination with other Centre based and family day care services. The current In home care scheme is not fair and equal and funding to the service is limited to 7000 places nationally and has only had funding offers for places twice over a ten year period. The process to become a registered provider of in home care service is by tender rather than a fair and equal process such as with the current New Zealand model of in home care where funding is allocated to the child and any service provider that has met licensing requirements can supply services based on demand and need for services in their area.

Night Nannies would like to see the existing approved out of home services continued in conjunction with in home services such as nannies meeting the needs of families who are unable to utilise the existing approved out of home services. We believe a system similar to the New Zealand model where funding is allocated to the child and the child then uses varying licensed services required at that time has the ability to provide a fair, quality and flexible child care system supporting Australian families. In New Zealand an educational and quality program is offered by licensed providers in the family home with a Coordination unit employing qualified staff to oversee the nanny in the home and provide an educational program.

In light of recent recommendations from the Royal Commission into Child abuse in Victoria, Night Nannies would also like to recommend implementation of a national Working With Children Check.

Your sincerely

Annemarie Sansom

**Director**

**Night Nannies Australia Pty Ltd**

**ACN: 145 109 922**

[www.nightnannies.com.au](http://www.nightnannies.com.au)