

To Whom It May Concern.

I wish to make a submission to Productivity Commission Inquiry Childcare Committee.

I have worked in Education for the last 38 years. During that time I have seen Governments come and go policies implemented some succeed and some fail and teachers come and go. Over the last few years I've witness many of our best young teachers leave the system due to the 'system'. Not only is this disappointing from a financial cost of training but this is the foundation of Australia's future being weakened.

I've also come to the realisation as to how important Education is to society both in a social setting and in a financial context. The more educated and socially adjusted our children are the more productive and less cost they are to our society in general in future.

As with any building or structure the foundations are ultimately the most important to get right and be solid from the beginning. What better start can we give a child than the best beginning to their life. To do this we have to have highly motivated, enthusiastic and well trained Childcare Staff. To do this we need to resource the centres appropriately and train our staff to the highest standard. Wages need to reflect the importance of our childcare worker's contribution to our society.

Just possibly if we spent just a fraction of what we spend on adults who have run foul of our societies rules then may be we wouldn't have gaols full and over crowded, maybe we would be able to fill our employment needs and maybe we would have less people reliant on social security allowing more to be spent on those who really need help.

Australia needs to allow and have the expectation that every individual will reach their full potential in life and become a productive member of our society.

To achieve this we need to start from a child's most formative years to instill a culture of success, love and care. From this we may develop an individual who is motivated to achieve in society and who cares and has empathy with others.

I strongly urge the Commission to realise the true value of resourcing Child Care at all stages but in particular Early Childcare and its long term advantages to our Australian Society.

The future of Australia is being born now, what Australia is like in 20 plus years depends on what we do for them, how they are educated and treated now.

Yours sincerely
Rod Pitt-Owen