

Date: Wed, 22 Jan 2014 02:10:36 +0000

I just wanted to raise my concerns to you about the Federal scheme for Child Care Rebate (thereafter referred to as CCR). Whilst I am aware that your jurisdiction covers Local Government, I am hoping that my concerns can be forwarded to State/Federal Government; or to the appropriate organizations who are legislated to handle such matters.

My concern is about the CCR which is pegged at \$7,500 per annum per eligible child. This amount is the same for all kids, whether the mother/carer is working full time/part time or none at all. So what you find is, those mothers working full time have their CCR running out by the middle of the Financial Year, meaning that, for the remaining six months, we have to fork out \$615 per week per child for 26 weeks. This is where my issues are, that there is no incentive for women to work full time, as all the remuneration is channeled to day care. I am a mother of two and I am really feeling the pinch, as I literally have to give everything that I earn; to Day care. I feel that there is a considerable amount of discrimination as there is no motivation to work full time; and inessential to say, I have a career that I am willing to continue to pursue, without being hindered by barriers that I have no control over.

Secondly, it is a well-known fact that prices are inflated in the Pilbara, due to historic misconceptions that we earn way above our colleagues in the City. Needless to say, day care rates are pegged higher than the Perth rates. Whilst I do understand that operating expenses for any business in the Pilbara are quite high due to high labour and accommodation costs, I strongly feel that these matters should also be taken into consideration by the Government. For someone working in Perth, their CCR runs out in March, meaning that they are covered for approximately 9 months whilst for the equivalent- full time working Mother in the Pilbara- the CCR runs out earlier, as discussed above.

Having said all the above, I feel you are the best person- as the Community representative- to forward these concerns; on behalf of working mothers, so as to enhance enthusiasm to work and contribute not only to the Community, but to the national economy as a whole.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards