

3 February 2014

Ms Wendy Craik
Presiding Commissioner
Childcare and Early Childhood Learning
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Ms Craik

The contribution of child care to child development is an area that the Productivity Commission is asked to report on. Child care has value if children at child care are at least as well off as children looked after by a parent. In any situation where a child is worse off, the care is invalid. Services are exchanged (for income) to improve the situations of the recipients. For child care to be of value, this must hold, or child care must be at least as good as care by the parent. The child is the recipient who receives the care. The value of child care to parents is secondary to the value of child care for the child.

'Growing up in Australia' is a longitudinal study of Australian children, that include the effects of child care on children, by the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Research using this data is at: <http://www.growingupinaustralia.gov.au/pubs/flosse.html>. Selected studies show the circumstances in which child care is at least neutral for child development.

I ask the Commission to include child care in which children's learning and development is at least equivalent to parental care as the services for children, or type of services, to be included for this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Scully