

Dear Commissioner/s ,

Please accept my following submission to Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning (CECL):

Why I currently use a CECL service:

I currently use an CECL service so that I can work full-time and my husband can work part-time. We find it necessary to both work to manage financially and do not have other child care options (i.e. family/friends) available to us. The availability and quality of child care is critical to both our participation in the workforce. If the service were to become more expensive either myself or my husband would be forced to withdraw from the workforce.

What is important to me in a CECL setting:

The Chinese Australian Child Care Centre (CACC) to which my youngest son currently attends (as did his older brother before him) meets and exceeds my expectations in terms of care and early learning.

My priorities for my son's care include a well-managed centre that is focused on the children's needs and development rather than making a profit. The key indicator for me that CACC meets these criteria is the very low staff turnover indicating to me that staff feel valued and the positive relationships the children have with staff and with each other.

The CACC has a core staff with high capability and suitability as early childhood educators. I believe the accreditation system provides good incentives for talented educators to formalise their skills and experience and I believe they ought to be compensated for this with higher wages akin to the professionalisation of the sector.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Devitt

3 February 2014