

We have owned several Childcare Centres, in SE Qld and now in Melbourne.

NQF & ACEQUA requirements have increased the cost of childcare to parents dramatically.

In Melb, the U3 ratio, now 1:4 has increased the cost by over 25%. When there were 5 children per day @ \$80 = \$400pd, now to maintain the \$400pd, parents must pay \$100pd, thus 25% of \$80 is the extra \$20 needed to maintain the financial viability of the room.

NQF has also added a major cost onto centres by the extra wages costings for all staff in the centre to be qualified or /undertaking studies, which gives a major wage extra costing to the centres. Added costs of 9.5% Super + workcover costs plus payroll tax all must be paid for by parents.

It is a legal requirement that the centre must remain viable and profitable, as such parents must pay for the changes to government legislation.

Many of the new ratios are not needed. The quality of care in many cases do not increase by having an extra staff.

All this is doing is increasing the cost of childcare massively.

Also many of the trivial little requirements are taking extra time away from our job of educating the children.

Child safety and education is very important but the new regulations and ratios are a major cost factor to the parents.