

I am writing regarding the draft recommendations and associated findings of the above mentioned report.

In particular I would like to highlight our support for Draft findings 5.1, 5.2 & 3.5.

The 2010 National Early Childhood Education and Care Census reports that only one quarter of paid ECEC staff have ten or more years' experience in the sector. I my experience as an Early Childhood Teacher for 25 years and a Director of Early Childhood services for 19 years, I can say that this is because of the standard of pay and conditions in comparison to those in the School sector. Over the years I have seen many skilled, experienced and talented Early Childhood Educators leave the sector due to poor pay and conditions in relation to colleagues in other industries with equivalent Tertiary qualifications. As an advocate of high quality Early Childhood education into the future, I therefore wholeheartedly support Draft Findings 5.1 & 5.2 and ask that these findings be converted into concrete recommendations

All of my experience has been in the Community-based, not for profit sector. I have worked with many and varied Management Committees. I have been privileged to work with some exceptional people who volunteer many hours of their time to manage Early Childhood Services. Up until now, these management committees have governed complex organisations (often in an industry of which they have little professional experience) with minimal, if any, support. In an age where many families are trying to function with very little family or community support and ever increasing governance requirements and responsibilities are placed on volunteer committees I fear a day will soon come when the job of managing a community-based service is both too onerous and beyond the capabilities of average parents. I therefore wholeheartedly support recommendation 3.5 as well.

Regards,

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