

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you in response to draft findings 5.1 and 5.2 and recommendation 3.5 put forward in the Early Childhood Development Workforce Draft Report.

I believe that it is important to match Early Childhood teachers wages to that of DET teachers wages, as this will keep qualified staff in the early learning environment and change the social status of this profession. If doing this, society will in turn acknowledge the importance of this profession and take Early Childhood teachers seriously. The importance of early childhood education will also be highlighted to parents in their child's life, just as it is when children start primary school.

For me personally, I have completed a double degree enabling me to teach in both the Early Childhood setting and the Primary setting. I am currently a teacher at an Early Learning Centre and am extremely passionate about my job and the children I teach. However, it is always in the back of my mind that my wages and quality of my work environment do not meet that of my colleagues, who have the same qualifications as me but work in primary schools. I feel that this is unjust and would sway me in the future, if things don't change, to take my qualification into the primary setting.

Teachers are teachers and all children deserve to get the best education and start in life, therefore, by increasing wages and work conditions we will keep our 'qualified' teachers in the Early learning environments and provide young children with quality education.

I strongly suggest that you take action immediately and convert the workforce findings into concrete recommendations if you are serious about improving the workforce standards and retaining qualified staff including Cert III, Diploma and Degree qualified staff in the industry.

Kind Regards  
Lani Famularo