

Australian Government Productivity Commission
Early Childhood Development Workforce
Productivity Commission
Draft Research Report
June 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a Managing Director of an RTO, Customised Training Pty Ltd. I am also a member of the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework Advisory Board through Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority and the Department of Early Childhood and Education.

After reading the draft research report and discussions with Karen Weston, Assistant General Manager, Quality Learning and Transition, DEECD, I have put together my opinion in relation to the findings within the research report.

The research report, I believe, captures the essence of Early Childhood Workforce at present and reflects a positive move to ensure continually high standards are met within the early childhood sector throughout Australia.

I believe it is a positive move as of 1st January 2014 that all early childhood educators are working towards their Certificate III and above and hopefully this will improve the quality of staff in the early childhood sector. My concerns are with some of the recommendations in Chapter 10 Training the Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce.

- Draft recommendation 10.4 – My recommendation in relation to current VET assessors is that I agree that all VET assessors should have current industry practice and ensure their skills and qualifications map to the courses in which they deliver.
- Draft finding 10.4 – I believe that RTO's and TAFE's should be involved in developing the recognition of prior learning assessment tool. Currently, at Customised Training, we have assessment tools developed to recognise prior learning as would all training providers but it would be good to have one systematic approach.
- Draft recommendation 10.5 – 10.7 – RTO and TAFE providers under the ASQA will now, due to recommendation, receive a more robust initial registration and rigorous and targeted auditing penalties to ensure that they continue to produce graduates of exceptional quality. My concern with this recommendation is that there are a lot of RTO's coming under the State registering body not just the ASQA. They would need to be captured to ensure that the same process occurs to the RTOs under ASQA. If all RTOs are looked at through this auditing process, the RTOs that are doing the right thing should not be disadvantaged. This should be based on previous audit history.
- Draft finding 10.8 – Training in the early childhood sector cannot be based fully on line training as students require a combination of theoretical, practical, networking, mentoring and many studies have shown that totally on line training in this sector has disadvantages.