

Teachers are electing to work in the school system as they are supported more and with equitable wages recognising their educational degrees.

My own daughter is early childhood trained with a double degree in speech and hearing science – what an asset to early childhood but has elected to teach in primary schools where her graduate salary on commencing was some \$20,000 per annum net more than in preschool services – that goes a long way to repaying HECS and being independent. As a new grad in early childhood services she was only on \$3.00 an hour more than her assistant for all the extra responsibilities. Pay parity is essential to encourage young teachers to preschool education.

In our area yesterday a preschool had to close for the day when the teacher was ill as a replacement teacher was not to be found anywhere.... – as many of us are now the other side of 45/50 yrs who are we going to have to replace us as we retire???????

As a teacher in a NSW early childhood education and care service, I was happy to read that the Productivity Commission has recognised the need for long day care centres and preschools in NSW to offer salaries which have parity with primary teachers in the schools sector.

The only way we can get pay parity is if the NSW Government funds community based preschools and long day care centres to increase teacher's wages.

I believe the Productivity Commission should convert their finding on this issue (Draft Finding 5.1) to a recommendation, recommending that the NSW Government funds services to increase their teacher's salaries via registered industrial agreements.

It is only through such a recommendation that NSW early childhood teachers will ever achieve pay parity.

Regards
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