

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.

I also believe that all children should have equitable access to ECEC services, and that funding and grants administration procedures should be consistent within programs and across agencies.

Also that policy and program development should be based on reliable evidence, but this must not prevent innovative or diverse programs from being supported.

DEC and the ECEC sector must respect each other's roles and recognise that this may lead to a difference of opinion, and this must not interfere with providing high quality services for children.

A funding mechanism should be created to increase funds to Preschool Services, such services have been underfunded for too long forcing parents to carry a heavy burden for the ongoing running costs of such educational services.

Regards
Margaret Wayland
Chair
Australian Montessori Teacher Education Foundation