

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.

With so many existing teachers soon to retire there needs to be a financial incentive to attract workers into the early childhood profession. Without this the majority of graduates will opt for the higher pay in the school system.

I believe that the government can no longer rely on the goodwill of existing teachers who have a passion for working with our country's children. Our children are our future and we need the best teachers to guide these children into the future. Pay equity will ensure that the best teachers can pursue their desired path knowing that they will be paid accordingly.

Regards

Fiona Moulton