

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. Otherwise I fear the departure of Early Childhood teachers to primary/secondary positions or indeed transfer to alternative professions will continue to increase. I believe this discrepancy in wages across the sector is paramount to a form of discrimination and cannot be tolerated any longer - help keep our profession strong and the quality of educators high!

Regards

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