

As a teacher in a NSW early childhood education and care service, I was pleased 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. We are consistently losing staff and newly trained students entering the work force, who have early childhood qualifications, but then cannot afford to work in the sector. Pay is only one part of the inequity, as the conditions are also significantly different, but pay is a start.

So 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.

To achieve this I would like the Productivity Commission to 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, and any actions to achieve this will be considered.

Regards

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