

hello my name is lily,

i have been an early childhood teacher for 5 and a half years, i recently changed over to the modern award and i am in disbelief that a fully four year university trained teacher can now only ever hope to earn \$54, 000 a year as the new award states... if this doesn't change i can assure you that there will be no incentive for workers in the childcare industry to undertake four years at university for \$10 000 extra in thier salary compared to the tafe trained diploma, it just does not make sense. my hope is that governments will see and recognise how important the first 5 years of life are to education and the first step for this is pay parity and implementing a teacher accreditation scheme similar to that of primary school teachers.

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

Regards

lily