



Victorian Children's Services Association Inc

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Reg. No. A0015506R
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Submission to: Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

From: The Victorian Children's Services Association

The Association was established in 1978 and was incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act (1981) in February 1988, Number A 001 5506R. It is a non-government, voluntary organisation and does not receive any government funding. It is funded solely from membership subscriptions.

The VCSA was formally called the Association of Subsidised Child Care Centres. Following the withdrawal of operation subsidy to the member centres (effective July 1997) the name and Model Rules were altered at the Annual General Meeting on 26 August 1997.

The VSCA is a recognised employer organisation and is specifically for the non-profit children's services centres.

Current Membership:

In total 1854 staff are employed across the membership in 136 Services:

125 Long Day Care Centres
8 Occasional Childcare Centres
3 Out of School Hours Care Services.

Submission re Paid Maternity Leave:

The VCSA supports the 'Pru Goward proposal' for a paid maternity leave scheme.

She proposed a national scheme of paid Maternity Leave, entirely Government funded, available to women in paid work at the time of the birth of the child. Women who have been in paid work for 40 of the 52 weeks before the birth of their child, including contractors and other self employed, casual and part-time workers, would be eligible.

The woman would be paid 14 weeks income replacement at a rate of up to the federal minimum wage.

There are at least 100,000 people working in Children's Services in Australia, 97% of whom are female. We have an acute shortage of staff and a scheme such as this may assist with staff retention.

Employers who could afford to do so may decide to add to the Government funded scheme. In Victoria, Kindergarten teachers employed using the Multi Employer Certified Agreement between the Australian Education Union (AEU) and Kindergarten Parents Victoria (KPV) receive eight weeks paid Maternity Leave. This is paid for by the Victorian Government Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Rosemary Waite

19. 5. 2008

This Submission is not Confidential.