



12 March 2014

Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committees
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

**The immediate future of the childcare sector in Australia
The delivery of quality and affordable early childhood education and care services**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the above inquiries.

United Voice notes that the terms of reference for these inquiries have similarities with the terms of reference of the current Productivity Commission inquiry into childcare and early childhood learning.

United Voice prepared a detailed submission to the Productivity Commission inquiry that covers the terms of reference of both of the above inquiries. To that end, the United Voice submission to the Productivity Commission inquiry is attached. Please consider this document as the United Voice submission to the above inquiries into early childhood education and care (ECEC).

Quality ECEC benefits children, families and the community by fulfilling key educational and workforce participation goals. Despite the obvious and proven benefits, the sector is in crisis. Low wages, a lack of professional recognition and limited career progression have left the sector struggling to attract and retain qualified educators.

At the same time, families struggle to access childcare due to affordability issues and a lack of places. Effective solutions are urgently needed and United Voice welcomes these timely inquiries.

Please contact Madeleine Holm on [redacted] if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL CROSBY
National President