



14 March 2014

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Enquiries: Jim Nolan (03) 5358 8700

Committee Secretary
Senate Education and
Employment Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

**SENATE INQUIRY: THE DELIVERY OF QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES -
SUBMISSION BY NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL**

The Northern Grampians Shire Council provides child care services from its centres at Stawell and St Arnaud, Victoria.

Council is increasingly concerned about its ability to continue to provide cost effective services where the provision of those services is subsidised by Council's rate base.

Small rural councils such as Northern Grampians Shire have limited capacity to subsidise such services if they are to be financially sustainable.

In some rural communities like St Arnaud, the Council Child Care Centre is the only child care service available. The loss of such a service is likely to have significant implications for working parents and small town economic sustainability.

Council would welcome greater flexibility in the provision of child care services in small rural communities and greater level of support in caring for children with special needs.

Council would be happy to provide further information on the above.

Yours faithfully

Jim Nolan
Director Economic & Community