

13 March 2014

Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committees
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To whom it may concern,

The Inquiry into the Immediate Future of the Childcare Sector in Australia

Early Childhood Intervention Australia (ECIA) is the peak national organisation promoting the interests of young children with disabilities and developmental delays and their families. It has a national and State/Territory structure, with the majority of members being early childhood intervention (ECI) professionals working in Government-funded agencies. These include small community organisations, large disability and children's services agencies and various government departments, reflecting the diverse ways in which services to young children and their families are provided nationally. Our membership also includes family members of young children with disabilities and developmental delays. Members are based in urban, rural and regional centres throughout the country.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this Inquiry. Attached is our submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Child Care and Early Learning which covered similar territory to this inquiry. We ask that this submission be considered as a part of the Senate Standing Committees on Education and Employment's deliberations.

ECIA is interested as to how this inquiry will interface with the Productivity Commission Inquiry and is concerned about the possible impacts on the early childhood intervention sector, early childhood education and care sector, and NDIS should the recommendations between the two inquiries differ.

Should you have any questions or to speak further with ECIA please do not hesitate to contact Lauren Matthews, ECIA Victorian Chapter Executive Officer, who will be able to assist.

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Matthews
ECIA VC Executive Officer
On behalf of ECIA National.

right from the start