

To: [Committee, EEC \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Childcare package - Family Assistance Legislation Amendments
Date: Monday, 25 January 2016 4:04:50 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

We have serious concerns about the Jobs for Families Package in regards to the impact on our current and future families.

While we understood the aim of the Package was to simplify the current system, it is our view that it have actually ended up more complex and definitely more onerous in terms of monitoring and policing the implementation.

The Activity Test does not correlate to the way long day care centres operate or could viably operate; it is more in line with Occasional Care which has shown to be a financially unviable model. So there is a great risk that if this package is introduced then centres will need to change their operating models to that similar to Occasional Care and risk closure when they subsequently become financially unviable. Staffing will be negatively affected, with a likely move towards a more casualised workforce. In addition, this type of hourly model is not appropriate for implementing an educational program and is definitely a step backwards, reducing the hours of early education that young children can/will access.

Whilst the theory is that vulnerable families will be supported to access care, it relies heavily on families self identifying or on educators being able to recognise they fall into this category. In reality, very few families will self identify as vulnerable due to the stigma they see comes with this label. So unless the families are already enrolled at the service, educators will not be able to identify their level of vulnerability and they are likely to fall through the cracks and not end up with any access to care.

The Early Childhood sector is well used to change, but we don't want a 'quick fix' that will provide worse outcomes for young children and their families. Please go back and look at the submissions from the peak bodies to both the Productivity Inquiry and the Jobs for Families Package consultation - these groups are in touch with services and have an understanding of the practical implications that, with all due respect, politicians do not have.

regards,

Maria Bennett

Children's Services Manager

Campus Life