

The Senate

Education and Employment
References Committee

Delivery of quality and affordable early
childhood education and care services

July 2014

© Commonwealth of Australia

ISBN: 978-1-76010-047-6

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Australia License.



The details of this licence are available on the Creative Commons website: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/au/>.

This document was produced by the Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment and printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Parliament House, Canberra.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Members

Senator Sue Lines, Chair, ALP, WA

Senator Bridget McKenzie, Deputy Chair, Nats, VIC (from 26 June 2014)

Senator Chris Back, Deputy Chair, LP, WA (until 26 June 2014)

Senator Deborah O'Neill, ALP, NSW (from 7 July 2014)

Senator Nova Peris OAM, ALP, NT (from 1 July 2014)

Senator Lee Rhiannon, AG, NSW

Senator Anne Ruston, LP, SA (from 1 July 2014)

Senator Mehmet Tillem, ALP, VIC (until 30 June 2014)

Senator Anne Urquhart, ALP, TAS (until 7 July 2014)

Substitute Members

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, AG, SA

to replace Senator Lee Rhiannon, AG, NSW (from 12 December 2013)

Participating Members

Senator Nick Xenophon, IND, SA

Secretariat

Ms Julia Agostino, Secretary

Ms Natasha Rusjakovski, Principal Research Officer

Mr Josh See, Senior Research Officer

Ms Jessica Strout, Senior Research Officer

Ms Elise Williamson, Research Officer

Ms Sarah Bainbridge, Administrative Officer

PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Ph: 02 6277 3521
Fax: 02 6277 5706
E-mail: eec.sen@aph.gov.au

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE	iii
GLOSSARY	vii
RECOMMENDATIONS	ix
CHAPTER ONE	1
Background to the Inquiry	1
Reference	1
Background.....	1
Simultaneous inquiries	4
Acknowledgement.....	5
Notes on references	5
CHAPTER TWO	7
National Quality Framework	7
Background.....	7
Benefits of the NQF.....	8
NQF and children’s development.....	11
Regulatory overlap and implementation costs	13
Impact on the quality of service	15
Educator-child ratio	16
Rating System.....	19
CHAPTER THREE	21
Remuneration, training and professional development of early childhood educators	21
Reasons for the labour shortage	21
Qualification requirements under the NQF	22
Early Years Quality Fund and the Professional Development Fund	24

Wages	26
Educators, not carers	28
COALITION SENATORS' DISSENTING REPORT	31
Background to the inquiry	31
National Quality Framework	31
Diversity of services	32
Managing the regulatory burden	33
Rating system	36
Early Years Quality Fund and the Professional Development Fund	37
Wages	40
Conclusion	40
AUSTRALIAN GREENS ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	41
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BY SENATOR NICK XENOPHON.....	43
APPENDIX 1	49
Submissions	49
Additional information	51
Correspondence	51
Response to questions on notice	51
APPENDIX 2	53
Public Hearing	53

