

**To:** [Committee, EEC \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** Childcare package - Family Assistance Legislation Amendments  
**Date:** Wednesday, 27 January 2016 10:50:22 AM

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To whom it may concern,

This email is to express my concerns with the proposed family legislation amendments.

They are:

- It is very complex and will bring much frustration/misunderstanding to families and services.
- The activity test will adversely affect families who do not work and, those whose work/study hours are less than the prescribed number for eligibility – namely, vulnerable children at risk and/or from disadvantaged backgrounds who benefit most from participating in quality early childhood education and care. Their parents would not be able to afford sending their children to quality ecec programs without the subsidy/support!
- It will have a negative impact on Aboriginal Budget Based services - funding shortfalls make it very difficult to run essential programs.
- A detrimental effect on the quality of the early childhood education and care workforce with the removal of funded professional development. Keeping abreast with current research and best practice through professional development activities is essential to keeping the ecec workforce at a standard to ensure they perform their roles and responsibilities to a consistent high standard of professionalism.

Please consider the immediate and long term impacts that the proposed family legislation amendments will have on families – especially on the learning, development and well being of Australia’s children – our future citizens whose best potential must be supported if Australia is to remain strong and prosperous.

Thanking you for your attention and in anticipation of your consideration of the above concerns,

Kind Regards,  
Helen Thomasson