

**From:**  
**To:** [Committee, EEC \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** Childcare package - Family Assistance Legislation Amendments  
**Date:** Monday, 25 January 2016 3:19:05 PM

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To the members of the Senate,

Please do not approve the amendments to the Family Assistance Legislation without considering the knowledge and experience of early childhood educators currently working face to face with Australian families.

The proposed child care package is confusing and complex and will not address issues of access and affordability for all Australian children. Indeed, with the current focus on workforce productivity over the educational needs of our youngest citizens, the children and families most in need of support to access high quality early childhood services will be most disadvantaged.

The activity test, designed to spread the resource of education and care services, will in fact shut out many vulnerable families from the RIGHT to access an education service. When so much research highlights the short and long term benefits of quality preschool education (in social, educational, health and economic outcomes), it seems ignorant to focus only on economic principles at the expense of children's future wellbeing.

The impact on Aboriginal Budget Based services does not bear thinking about.

Ironically, the removal of funded professional development also compromises everything the sector has been advocating for in terms of improving quality service delivery and outcomes for children.

I endorse the submission made by Community Childcare Co-operative (NSW)

Regards,

Gai Lindsay

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