

I am writing to express my concerns with the structure surrounding the Early years Quality Fund on behalf of the staff team here at HopePoint Preschool. We are a community-based, not-for-profit preschool providing care and education for children aged 3-5 years from the Bankstown LGA. Our preschool currently operates under an Enterprise Agreement (Calvary Chapel Preschool Enterprise Agreement 2010) and maintains qualification requirements over those of the National Quality Framework. Unfortunately, as our preschool is funded by the NSW Government, we are unable to apply for the fund and reward our highly experienced and qualified staff team with the wages they deserve.

Sourcing Early Childhood Teaching candidates for positions which come available here at the preschool is an extremely difficult task, even with the lure of school holiday breaks, as a result of the substandard pay rates in comparison to teaching in schools. Unfortunately, the task will not be made any easier for us with long day care centre's able to apply for the fund and offer teaching staff a wage they deserve.

While we congratulate the Federal Government on the fund, we are gravely concerned about the inequity underpinning it, by the fund not being available for all early childhood education and care services in Australia, even though we all follow the same regulatory and assessment framework. We seek an urgent review on the grounds of application towards the fund, as services such as ours who meet the requirements miss out purely because we are a state funded facility.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Brenda Jones Nominated Supervisor HopePoint Preschool



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