

20 September 2011

Dear Parents

The 'Parent Power' Campaign

Help us ensure quality child care remains affordable

Parent Petition Instructions

Please accept this letter, as a request to help us help you. As valued families of this centre, we are seeking your active support to help us ensure our families (and our future families) can continue to have equity of access to affordable, high quality long day child care.

We believe in improving quality and we support, in principle, the Federal Government's (and the Council of Australian Government's) National Quality Agenda reforms but we must get it right.

With less than 5 months to go, we are becoming more concerned. Due to the uncertainty and haste of the governments to rush through these seismic changes to child care:

1. we fear for the impact of these reforms on parents – our parents - who we know cannot afford any further cost increases;
2. we worry for staff – our staff - who are becoming increasingly agitated and fearful about their role, their skills and the training demands placed on them without sufficient support and guidance from the governments; and

Quite simply, our families (and our staff and colleagues) **are not ready for the full impact** of these reforms. **We seek your assistance to help delay, by two years, the National Quality Agenda reforms that are due to be implemented on 1 January 2012.** There is no cost to taxpayers to delay the regulations until we get it right and until the Government can afford them.

If not funded properly by the Federal Government, these reforms could see the cost of quality long day child care rise by at least \$13-\$22 a day. This has been independently estimated for centres nationally (and may vary from centre to centre). **Your assistance could help avert such cost increases.**

We believe that the reforms need to be slowed down until:

1. The Federal Government – and not parents/centres - can pay for the costs;
2. Staff must have time to be properly trained and up skilled (we require 40,000 staff to be retrained nationally) and for this to be properly funded and supported by the Government;
3. Centre providers receive appropriate support and education to understand their legal obligations, training requirements and accreditation changes; and
4. Policies are properly developed to support the demand for 3000 tertiary qualified staff to be engaged by centres nationally. Right now there is a chronic staffing shortage in the child care sector.

The Federal Government has already hurt our families this financial year by reducing the maximum Child Care Rebate available to families by nearly \$700 to \$7,500 and freezing the indexation for four years.

If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact our State President, Mr Peter Price on 07 3808 2366.

We are neither political nor partisan but we believe parents need to be heard. This petition is one way to ensure parents have the attention of the politicians from all sides. Please sign this petition and help make a difference to you and your fellow families.

Warm regards,
Mr Peter Price
State President

Mr Frank Cusmano,
Secretary, Australian Childcare Alliance Inc.



