

**INQUIRY INTO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND  
CARE SECTOR IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

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I worked in child care and I'm a parent who children have form to school.

Working in child care I felt like there was way to much paper work that took away from working with the children to help them and to establish connections and learn how to help them best, we had to do so many daily weekly and monthly feed back on how the centre ran what we did and the observations with the children meaning we were never really hole present in the room and felt constantly over worked and like we didn't have the time to do the things they wanted needed us to do and I do do some outside of work hour but stoped it became to much with my own children and long hours. Parent demanded information and daily update they paid enough but would want to over care for them and the fact that there was up to 30 other kids in the room, we never had enough toys or equipment to be able to get the children participating or engaged in activities, causing behaves in the rooms, and had been told to do more activities to stop with behaviour issues but it was a vicious cycle of never ending issues. On an already small wage this was hard to feel like it was nessary.

During COVID we where made to feel like we were valued ish then when it was all over it felt like a big fuck you back to normal but no more pay no more help and we will b lame you for so many y more problems that have arisen and was the beginning of me wanting to leave ASAP.

I worked in a massive centre (300) and a small one (70) so I have seen big and small centres and how they worked but always profit centre which quite often felt like many making especially the big one rather than wanting the best for kids and setting them up for life.

I left 3 years ago and still feel like I'm exhausted from the hours and all the things that needed to be done and expected of us one centre had it in the contract that we had to participate in dress up days and fail to do so would result in us being sent home and docked wages till we were dressed appropriately for the day but the dress up came out of our own pocket.

As a parent I'm appalled that I wasn't told truthfully by educators how my child was behaving honestly then starting school and finding out my child has a real issue that needed diagnosing with more honest daily or weekly I would have been taking my children to be helped much earlier I now where working in child care I wa told to keep it light don't tell to much but even when there was a big issue that was obviously there parent still didn't want to hear it but it was needed to help the children even when they are non virbal at 3 or 4 it's hard to hear but necessary to help them and get what they need. I felt blind sided hearing that my my child was very emotional and ran out of class I could have been to see many drs earlier and made their life easier with more information yes it's hard to hear but they and me would have gotten the information and help they needed earlier.