

**Submission
No 5**

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

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Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Early Childhood Education and Care

Introduction

My name is Tashu Singh, and I am a parent of a 17-month-old toddler and an NDIS participant with disabilities. I had planned to enroll my child in childcare to pursue further studies, but after the Four Corners investigation, I can no longer trust the system. Childcare is meant to be a vital support network, and the systemic failures exposed have left me feeling let down and uncertain.

Concerns

I am particularly concerned about:

1. The lack of accountability and safety in childcare services.
2. Insufficient oversight of staff and their daily interactions with children.
3. The inability of the system to provide adequate support for families, particularly those with disabilities, who rely heavily on safe, trustworthy childcare.

Personal Experiences/Evidence

As an NDIS participant, childcare was meant to be a critical support for balancing my responsibilities as a parent while pursuing further education. However, the failures revealed by Four Corners have made me question the safety of placing my child in any facility.

Recommendations

To restore trust and ensure safety, I propose:

1. Require all childcare workers to wear body cameras during their shifts to ensure accountability.
2. Mandate that body camera footage is monitored by the center manager after each shift to identify and address any issues or breaches of safety.
3. Make the body camera footage available to parents upon request, allowing them to review their child's interactions with staff and ensuring peace of mind.
4. Enhance the regulatory framework to enforce these measures and provide families with greater confidence in the care their children receive.
5. Increase support for NDIS families with accessible childcare options tailored to their unique needs.

Conclusion

These steps are vital in restoring trust in the childcare system. Parents deserve transparency, accountability, and the assurance that their children are safe while in care. I strongly urge the committee to consider these recommendations to improve the safety and quality of early childhood education.

Sincerely,

Tashu Singh