

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 25 March 2025

Partially
Confidential

Dear Committee Members,

The recent Four Corners investigation highlighted the systemic failures of the "for-profit" childcare sector, yet the "not-for-profit" sector is in dire need of assistance. Many community preschools are at risk of closure, due to the fierce competition by the "for-profit" sector to obtain access to these sites and run these as long daycare centres instead. There have been countless examples, particularly in Sydney, where community preschools have been evicted by their landlords, and subsequently a childcare centre opens at the same location. This, in effect, is the privatisation of the entire sector, as community preschools are simply unable to compete where the land they occupy is capable of returning more dollars as a childcare site. Community preschools have a highly important role to play in preparing children for school, and are often staffed by highly qualified teaching staff, which helps raise the standards of the entire Early Childhood sector overall.

Another matter which I would like to raise is the lack of access to 3 year old preschool in NSW. Other states, such as Victoria and SA have preschool for two years, and this has been shown to offer significant benefits to children in preparation for school. However, this is not available in NSW and instead, children are falling behind their state counterparts.