

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I have been a community based preschool teacher for over 30 years and love my profession. When any young person enquires about choosing teaching as a career I always encourage them because it's a wonderful job. However ,and I am deeply distressed by this I tell the person by all means teach but choose primary teaching not early childhood.

It's the same length of study and at most quality universities you could be seated beside an ECT however their pay is at least 20% less and the conditions and support are grossly inadequate. This wasn't always the case !

If the early childhood profession wants the high level of professional standards the pay parity issue with primary school teachers needs to be addressed. Young teachers starting out who have a passion for early childhood education are turning away. And you can't blame them .

The university course needs to be linked fully with primary teaching to ensure that high standards are maintained and not diluted by substandard pop up uni courses from questionable places .