

28 September 2011

Our Ref: 43196

The Research Director
Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee
Parliament House, George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Research Director,

QUEENSLAND COUNCIL OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS (QCPCA) FEEDBACK- INQUIRY INTO THE EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW (QUEENSLAND) BILL 201

QCPCA welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the Inquiry into the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Bill 2011 and would like to thank the Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee for the opportunity to provide input.

The *National Partnership Agreement on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care* provides long overdue recognition for the importance of quality teachers and environments for Early Childhood learning.

- QCPCA support the idea of greater accountability. One of the major concerns offered in the development of the National Quality Framework is that many P&Cs currently offering a high quality service will fall back to a lower rating when the new ratings procedure is implemented. P&Cs and OSHC work hard to reach these high standards and whilst QCPCA support improvements in the child care sector, the ability to achieve a high ranking under the new assessment structure will be near impossible for a P&C to attain under such stringent measures. Volunteers do not have the time and legal knowledge to be able to tick all the boxes. Our priority with the OSHC staff must still be caring for the children.
- QCPCA have some concerns as to where responsibility will fall. The Office for Early Childhood Education and Care (OECEC) has stretched human resources in regional areas already.
- The State school system offer housing and financial incentives for remote service. Would there be anything in the pipeline for this concept now that Qld Government has introduced 'Universal Access'?
- **Division 2 Use and disclosure of URL data relating to approved kindergarten programs- 31 Definitions for div 2- (B) needs additional assistance because of the disability or**

medical condition; Is this information going to be used to provide more financial assistance to these early childhood education services?

- In the early stages of implementation there may be costs to P&Cs that may potentially be lost if a teacher moves. Although this will be a short term issue, it will still need to be taken into consideration.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide feedback. If you wish to discuss these comments further then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Margaret Leary
QCPCA State President