

Submission received 17 March 2020

As a stay at home mum, moving to a new country, I knew I needed a support system. Without having any family here to support me, I would need to pay for that support. I couldn't justify paying \$300 a week to put my child in daycare because I don't work. I don't need or want leave my small child all day for 2 days a week. Most childcare centres require enrolment on 2 days. This is my story but every family in our community has a story that tells us why affordable short hours care for under 36 months is so important. Expats, part-time workers, small business owners and stay at home mothers who need a little time for themselves. This doesn't even touch on the benefits for the children.

We are a service that operates with a limited type 2 license. We care for children 18 months to school age. At every session there are 2 dip qualified paid staff and 2 parent volunteers. Our organisation has been around since the 1980's. Alignment to the proposed legislation would change fundamentally change who we are. Our parents enjoy the chance to come in and participate in caring for the children. It is integral to our sense of community.

There is a need for affordable short hours care for children under 36 months. The proposed ratio of 1 to 4 for under 36 makes it difficult for a small service like ours to provide care to that age group. Even if we bring on more paid staff we will have to reduce spaces available to this age group. Currently on our waiting list we have only 18 children over 36 months and 50 children aged 18-36 months. The attention required by a 6 month old is different from that of a 24 month old and the ratios should reflect that. Thanks for taking the time.

[Name redacted]