

MEDIA RELEASE

Children's Services Staff Continue The Fight For Better Outcomes

Tuesday, August 17, 2004

Children's Services staff committed to quality outcomes for children have found themselves fighting yet another battle to ensure better outcomes for NSW children.

Following the recent review of the N.S.W Children's Services Regulations, it has been revealed that there has been pressure placed on the Minister of Community Services the Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MLC, from parts of the sector to eliminate the requirement that services employ a university trained early childhood teacher.

This has raised grave concerns within the sector. Anthony Semann from the Social Justice in Early Childhood Group states "research internationally has shown that the employment of a university trained teacher is a vital component of quality early childhood programs. Quality programs provided by early childhood teachers form the foundation for children's lifelong learning".

NSW is one of the remaining states which mandates that a university trained early childhood teacher be employed in services which are licensed for over 29 children. Supporters of quality education have been urged to sign a petition circulating across Australia, or to personally write to the Minister of Community Services the Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MLC, asking for a commitment by her government to maintain the requirement in the new children's services regulations that providers of children's services continue to employ university trained early childhood teachers, and furthermore to recognise that university trained early childhood teachers are essential in delivering quality early childhood curriculums, programs and services to the community

The recent rally organised by the Social Justice in Early Childhood Group, saw over 600 children, staff, parents and community members bring the busy streets of Sydney City to a stand still. Rally organiser Mr. Anthony Semann stated “we fought for the 1:4 ratios and we are willing to now fight to save our teacher”