

“Setting the Agenda”

ECC Annual Conference

Christchurch

May 2010

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Setting the Agenda

- Developments within ECC
- Issues affecting the wider sector

Within ECC

- Improving the value you get
 - Changes to the website
 - Renew your membership on line
 - Purchase and access tools and resources on line
 - Find information more easily
 - Giving you greater say – on-line surveys, blogs
 - Booking for seminars and other events on-line
- Moving office shortly to be closer to key stakeholders
- Revising and clarifying our strategic direction
- Revising our handbooks, resources and seminars
- Revising our range of preferred suppliers

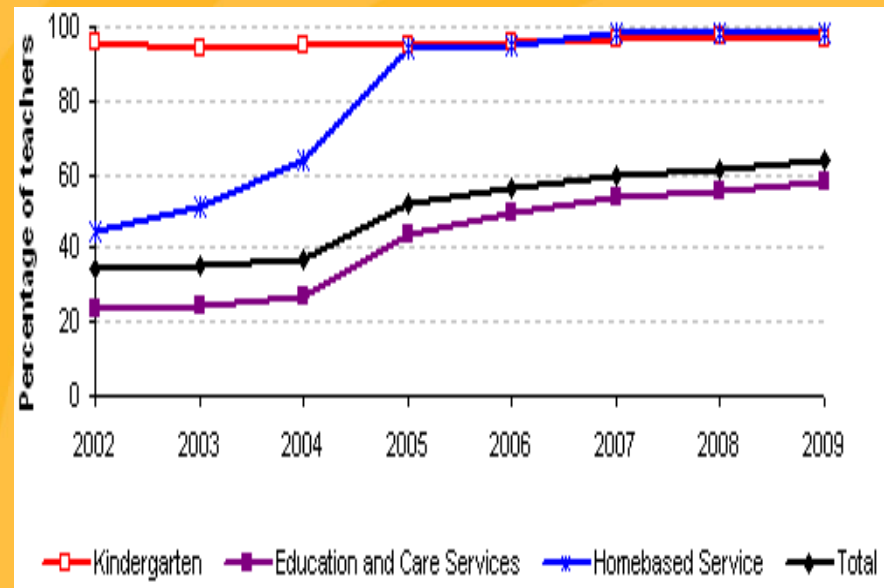
Issues affecting the wider sector

- Teacher registration
- Availability of teachers
- Reporting
- Funding Model
- Multiple Licensing
- National Standards
- What might be in the Budget?

ECE Teacher Registration

The percentage of ECE teachers is increasing

Percentage of teachers who are registered, by service type (2002 to 2009)



(Source: Ministry of Education, April 2010)

ECE Teacher registration

The problems

- Process is unclear
- Decisions are inconsistent
- Conflict between NZTC, NZQA and the Ministry
- Overseas-trained teachers equivalence process issues

What we're doing about it

- Meeting with NZTC, NZQA and Ministry staff to obtain clarity of process and interpretation
- Revising our Teacher Registration Assessment Booklet

Availability of Teachers

The problems

- Teacher shortages continue to exist, especially in problem areas
- Partly because teacher training numbers are capped
- Teacher salaries are higher, on average, in ECE than in primary

What we're doing about it

- Advocating for the cap to be lifted or removed

Reporting

The problems

- the volume!
- 15-minute staff hour reporting
- Attestation forms
- Child attendance register
- Staff rosters
- and so on!!

What we're doing about it

We're seeking a solution that will give simplicity to us and security to MoE



Funding Model

The problems

- There is not an even playing field (with kindergartens or home-based services)
- Rules are unnecessarily complex
- Reporting requirements require high administration input

What we're doing about it

- The Ministry of Education have signalled they recognise the funding model requires review
- ECC is advocating for a working party approach involving the sector and Ministry to identify viable options

Multiple Licensing

The problems

- One centre can have multiple licenses, involving significant paperwork and reporting duplication

What we're doing about it

- We're advocating for one centre – one license approach



The “S” Word

The problems

- National standards imposed on the Primary sector
- Strong and continuing Government interest in ‘value for money’
- Potential risk for ECE
- Current lack of visibility of our achievements

What we’re doing about it

- Most in the sector embrace Te Whariki
- Opportunity to enhance the visibility of what we are achieving

What might be in the Budget?

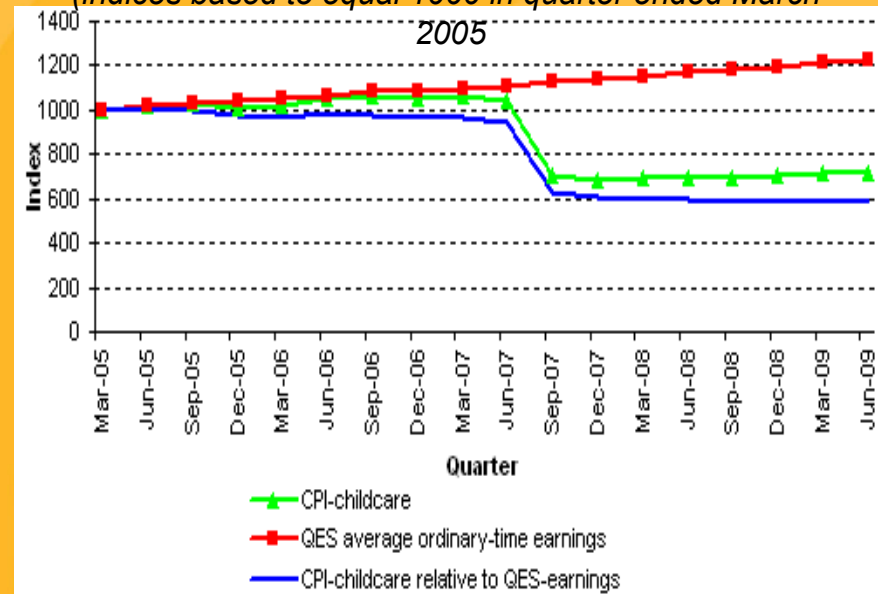
- Cost cutting
- A possible change to 20 hours
- 100% funding rate cut to 80%
- Other???

Why Govt will cut costs

- Look at the red line, then look at the green line
- The red line is the average earnings rising
- The sudden drop in the green line is the impact of the 20 Hours policy which saw early childhood education fees paid by households fall 31.6% in the two years to June 2009
- Alongside these figures, Bill English sites increased Govt spending on early childhood (\$428M in 04/05 to \$1,120M last year)

Indices of average ECE fees paid by households, average earnings, and average fees relative to earnings

(indices based to equal 1000 in quarter ended March 2005)



(Source: Ministry of Education, April 2010)

20 hours

- Contradictory messages from within Government regarding changes to the 20 Hours policy
- The ECC will take a position on this when it sees the detail in the Budget
- We would support more targeting of lower decile children currently missing out on ECE
- But we remain concerned about the impact of changes on ECE

If the 100% funding rate is cut to 80%

- This is an approach to cost cutting that could be destructive for our sector
- Centres that have worked hard to realise Government policy will be punished for doing so
- An average size centres with 100% registered staff could lose \$160,000 a year of funding
- Left with qualified staff it cannot afford to pay
- Forced to reduce costs by either making staff redundant, or cutting services for children

In conclusion

- The ECC is the largest representative body of licensed early childhood centres in New Zealand
- more than 1200 member centres and are still growing
- We represent both community-owned and commercially owned centres that employ more than 7,000 staff and care for more than 50,000 children
- We have a voice!

Your Challenge

- Enjoy and get the most out of your conference
- Get involved and give us your feedback/ ideas
- Take at least one thing away from the Conference you can use back home

Thank you

- For being here!
- For your support
- For your ongoing advice, experiences and input

He aha te mea nui o te Ao nei?

Maku e kii atu

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata

Ask me what is the greatest thing of this world?

I say to you:

It is people, it is people, it is people.

