

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Introduction

What is your name?

Name:

What is your email address?

Email:

Are you responding to this survey as:

Parent or guardian

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

N/A

Do you consent to the ACCC publishing your submission?

Yes, but do not publish my name

Open written submissions

Confidentiality and personal information

Choose File:

No file uploaded

Choose File:

No file uploaded

If you wish to provide responses to all or any of the draft findings and recommendations outlined in the September interim report, please move to the next section 'Guided submissions' to provide responses against the relevant findings and or recommendations.

Guided submissions

Draft Findings - Costs

1. Labour is the main driver of cost for supplying childcare, accounting for 69% at centre based day care and 77% at outside school hours care. Labour costs have increased significantly for large centre based day care providers over the last 5 years.

Unsure / No View

Please provide further comment if relevant:

The report addresses the cost aspect but not the reason(s) behind it. Are the labour increases in this sector on par with other sectors and if not, why not?

2. Land and related costs are the other significant driver of cost for centre based daycare providers.

Unsure / No View

Please provide further comment if relevant:

3. Not-for-profit providers appear to face lower land costs than for profit providers, but these savings are invested into labour.

Unsure / No View

Please provide further comment if relevant:

4. Location influences costs of supplying childcare services, although the influence differs depending on the cost category. Overall, costs to supply services to different areas of remoteness and socio-economic advantage do not differ greatly, except for the areas of most remoteness and most socio-economic advantage.

Unsure / No View

Please provide further comment if relevant:

Draft Findings - Price regulation mechanisms

13. The design of the Child Care Subsidy and existing price regulation mechanism has had a limited effect in placing downward pressure on prices and limiting the burden on taxpayers.

Agree

Please provide further comment if relevant:

Not only a limited effect, it has actually become a driver for cost increases.

As an example. My provider waited until October 2023 to increase their with fees with almost 17%. It would probably have been much less if the subsidies were not increased. The "extra" 7% I can claim in subsidies have been totally wiped off and I will in fact be paying \$200 per month more than before.

Why are centres allowed to update fees when they feel they need to and only give 2 weeks notice? And why are notification methods not prescribed in Reg 172? Fee schedules should only be allowed to be updated bi-annually at most and then with long enough notice to make a plan if a caregiver cannot pay the new fee. There should be no penalties to parents who cannot continue the service due to increasing fees.

14. Childcare providers are optimising session lengths to match current activity test entitlements to minimise out-of-pocket expenses for parents and guardians and maintain their revenues and profits.

Unsure / No View

Please provide further comment if relevant:

15. The Child Care Subsidy is complex for parents and guardians to understand and it is difficult to estimate out-of-pocket expenses.

Agree

Please provide further comment if relevant:

It is especially difficult to see the impact of changes in wages. You might get a very nasty surprise at tax time.

16. More information is important for parents and guardians, yet the comparator website StartingBlocks.gov.au is not widely used by parents and guardians and can contain outdated information.

Agree

Please provide further comment if relevant:

First time I hear about this site. It should be actively marketed.