

The Treasurer
Mr Andrew Barr

Dear Sir

Thankyou for the opportunity to participate in the development of the 2012-13 ACT Budget, I have two areas of interest that I feel the ACT Government need to consider:

1. introduction of funds to Preschools in Full Day Care Centre's and
2. increasing the funding for ACT RSPCA.

I would encourage the ACT Government to allocate funding to assist parents who choose to send their children to Preschool within their Long Day Care Centre.

My understanding is that parents who send their children to an ACT Government Preschool, are allocated 15 hours of free Preschool per week.

Parents who are in full time employment or study, and who choose to use their Long Day Care Preschool, are disadvantaged by not receiving 15 hours of free Preschool per week for their children, yet they support the ACT Government Preschools through their tax contribution.

This inequity I find difficult to understand.

Teachers employed in both ACT Government and Full Day Care Preschools hold a degree in Early Childhood Education. Both are involved in the implementation of the Early Years Learning Framework and The National Quality Framework. Both have the skill and expertise in educating our young children.

I would also add that Preschool Teacher's who have been employed in a Long Day Care Preschool, have an increased knowledge, understanding and skill through their participation in the National Childcare Accreditation Process.

I understand that in N.S.W. funding of \$8,000 a year is available to Long Day Care Centre's for each Teacher they employ with a degree in Early Childhood Education.

(Refer to NSW Government - Family & Community Services – new website – Funding for Early Childhood Teachers.)

This would be an ideal model to introduce in the ACT. This would demonstrate how much we really value and understand the importance of Early Childhood Education for all children, no matter which Preschool they attend.

I believe every child has the right to the best education and care available, in the Preschools/ schools chosen by the parents.

Government have a responsibility to ensure all children have access to high quality Early Childhood Education, and this can only happen with equal financial support through Government.

The second area of concern is Government funding for the ACT RSPCA.

As a tax payer and animal lover I have enormous admiration and respect for the work done in the ACT by 'our' RSPCA. Not only are they there to support concerns for the welfare of animals brought to their attention by individuals, but they are asked to assist with the welfare of domestic and wild animals by Government.

I am aware the ACT Government fund the RSPCA, but additional funding is required. As they, along with the ACT Domestic animal shelter are the main organisations that care of animals, a huge increase in Government funding is required.

I would ask the question, 'What would we do without the RSPCA in ACT?'

Some of our tax dollars are spent in unusual and sometimes questionable areas. I would suggest the RSPCA is an organisation in need of an increase in financial assistance from the ACT Government to assist them to carry on their vital work for our community.

Yours Faithfully

Eileen Webster.
12/01/2012.

