

Social Justice in Early Childhood Group

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Issues?

- **Review of 2004 Regulation**
- **Ratios – 1:5 and 1:4**
- **Qualifications**



2004 Regulation Review – by Sept 2009

Context:

- greater interest/appreciation of the importance of the early years and quality children's services;
- more focus on what is important to quality, less focus on less significant issues
- Government aim to improve regulatory approach - reduce regulatory burden; provide room for innovation; contemporary, performance based regulatory model
- Policy developments at the National level

Current Position:

- Internal work started
- External phase from second half 2008



Children's Services – Staff : Child Ratios

- Current Regulation requires ratio of 1 staff member to every 5 children under two years.
- Draft Regulation contemplated shift to a 1:4 staff:child ratio
- Concern for cost increases and loss of places - 1:5 maintained
- Cross-sectoral Task Force (May 2004) - not able to provide an agreed view on costs and impacts of the way forward
- Gov't response (end 06) - feasibility of change rested with COAG pressure on Commonwealth to improve funding for under 2's.



Children's Services – Staff : Child Ratios

- Independent economic analysis underway to provide robust evidence for Gov't consideration of policy change
- Benefits for child development of improved ratios not under debate – taken as a given, and not contested by stakeholders
- Survey – representative, stratified sample of 500 services
- Modelling of current costs and proportions, implementation options
- Report mid 2008
- Resolve issue before review of regulation



Qualifications

Qualified Positions:

- Teaching Staff Member
- Authorised Supervisor
- Primary Contact Under 2's
- NSW Institute of Teachers

COAG:

- Growth in ECT training
- emphasis on university trained teachers (3 year / 4 year)
- NSW has comparative strengths and weaknesses

