



CENTRES REVEAL CRISIS IN EARLY LEARNING

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In Tasmania, the national regulator, ACECQA reports that 14.7% of long-daycare services currently have a staffing waiver due being unable to recruit suitably qualified staff. Responses to the Crisis Tracker reported showed staffing shortages were more acute than in mainland states – with vacancies open for longer, and waiting lists for families up to twice as long. One centre in the electorate of Franklin reported having 2 vacancies open for 25 months, and another reported that waiting lists for new families and for existing families to pick up more days or enrol an additional child were all more than 2 years.

One Tassie Centre Director had this message for the government:

“Ensure educators are paid a living wage. As a bank manager recently said, our wage is considered to be in a category of the equivalent of working in poverty. No wonder staff do not stay in this sector. In 30 years I have never seen our waitlist this long - families are not able to work.”
