



Child Care

ICPA Australia has concerns with the changes from the Budget Based Funding model to the Jobs for Families Early Childhood Package, specifically in relation to Mobile Playgroups in rural and remote areas. As many of these mobile playgroups do not provide child care, nor can they be licensed, it appears they would not be funded under the new Community Child Care Fund.

Facilitation is specifically required to ensure that Mobile Playgroups in rural and remote areas, are included in the Jobs for Families Early Childhood Package, so that funding for these services is secure beyond 2018.

At the inception of the Nanny Pilot Programme it was touted as the solution to the problems that rural and remote families were having in accessing child care. To date ICPA Australia has no knowledge of any of its members that have actually continued with the program citing it as unaffordable in its current design.

The guidelines for the Nanny Pilot Programme, need to be reviewed immediately in relation to rural and remote families, so they can be assessed, charged lower rates and placed in a category consistent with their location and level of disadvantage.

For families living in rural and remote Australia, who are able to provide accommodation for staff, the In Home Care scheme is an affordable option when it comes to accessing child care, however there are 3 main concerns:

- a) **The criteria in the guidelines needs to be broadened to meet the needs of these families, particularly for those undertaking distance education schooling.**
- b) **In rural and remote Australia it is very difficult to find suitable people to employ in their homes to provide child care or to teach the children who must be educated by distance education, backpackers are a solution to this problem but they are currently constrained by their visa stipulations. A broadening of the criteria for working visas would solve this problem.**
- c) **We are hearing of incidents where families are not able to access In Home Care, even though they meet all of the guidelines. The Department of Education and Training maintains that this program is undersubscribed, further limiting rural and remote families in accessing affordable child care.**

Further details about our main lobby areas [here](#).

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Election Campaign

June 2016

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