

[Your name and title – attach to letterhead where possible]

[Your address]

[Your contact details, e.g. phone and email]

[Date]

[Name and title of your representative]

[Their address]

[Their contact details]

Dear [name and title of your representative],

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ (your full name) and I am an early childhood educator. I am writing to you because I believe that my profession has been underpaid and undervalued for far too long. We need the government to fund a wage increase that aligns our pay with our qualifications; we refuse to let our work continue to be dismissed as “wiping noses”.

Early childhood educators are some of the lowest paid professionals in Australia, and we earn a third less than counterparts in other settings, such as primary schools. This does not reflect the important role we play during the vital stages of every child’s development from birth to five; including brain development, the development of motor skills, creativity, communication, social and emotional well-being.

Early childhood education and care is a female-dominated sector, and is greatly affected by the gender pay imbalance. On average, male-dominated sectors with equivalent qualifications earn 30% more than we do.

I believe it is time for the Government to start listening and valuing our work. A responsible government that wants to address the gender pay imbalance would have already delivered us the respect we deserve: professional pay that recognises our essential role in society.

As my representative, I would like you to address the issues I have raised and how you will stand up to secure equal pay for my sector. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely,

[sign here]

[Your name and title]