

PARENTS SUPPORT THE EDUCATORS WHO SUPPORT THEIR KIDS

A lot of parents across Australia will need to finish work early on Thursday as more than three thousand educators at childcare centres stage a walk-off – and they don't mind a bit.

“Parents know what a tough job early childhood educators do and value the role they play in educating and caring for their children,” said The Parenthood’s Principal Campaign Manager Nicole Lessio.

That is why parents will stand in support of the educators who support them and their children.

“Parents recognise the enormous and under-valued contribution that their children’s early childhood educators make and have responded to the walk-off with support, enthusiasm and solidarity,” said Ms Lessio.

“This week marks Equal Pay Day in Australia, the date that marks the additional time from the end of the previous financial year that women must work to earn the same as men. That’s why educators will stage the walk-off on Thursday the 7th to draw attention to the whopping pay gap.

“We know that early years education is crucial to our children’s development and school-readiness, but the wages these qualified educators receive in no way reflects the importance of their role,” said Ms Lessio.

As with a lot of female-dominated fields, early childhood educators’ work isn’t highly paid.

“If pay is an indicator of what we value, it would seem we place caring and educating – traditionally more female-dominated sectors – near the bottom of the pack,” said Ms Lessio. “ But, as the educators themselves say, ‘love doesn’t pay the bills.’”

Female-dominated sectors have long been underpaid, with equivalent qualifications in male-dominated sectors making almost twice the hourly rate of early childhood educators. The walk off is a way to highlight the highly valuable contribution educators make to our society and economy.

“Walk-offs might be a little challenging for parents,” said Ms Lessio, “but we want educators to know that we support them in their fight for equal pay, so are more than willing to be inconvenienced for an afternoon.

“Our nation’s economy turns on the labour of these wonderful educators, and our children’s education starts with them. It’s time they received the pay they deserve.”

END.

Contact: Nicole Lessio, Principal Campaign Manager, The Parenthood 0416 263 239.