

# SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

(not for publication)

## Review of the *Report on Government Services*

**Please complete and submit this form with your submission to:**

Review of the Report on Government Services  
COAG Unit  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
PO Box 6500  
Canberra City ACT 2600

**OR By facsimile (fax) to:**  
COAG Unit 02 6271 5177

**By email:** rogs.review@pmc.gov.au

*PLEASE PRINT CONTACT INFORMATION*

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### CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

Please indicate if your submission or part of your submission contains any confidential material that you do not want included in the final report.

### Please note:

- Submissions or extracts of submissions may be placed on the COAG website or included in the final report, unless this cover sheet indicates otherwise.
- For submissions made by individuals, all personal details other than your name and the State or Territory in which you reside will be removed from your submission before it is published on the COAG website.



**COMMUNITY CHILD CARE CO-OPERATIVE**  
LTD. (NSW)

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12/06/09

Please find below Community Child Care Co-op's submission to the COAG review on the Report of Government Services

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the issues within your terms of reference.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renate Gebhart Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Renate- Gebhart Jones  
Acting CEO  
Community Child Care Co-operative

# Who are we?

Community Child Care Co-operative (NSW) is a 30 year old not-for-profit organisation that promotes, supports and advocates for quality children's services, meeting the needs of children, their families and the community. We are a peak organisation in NSW representing over 1300 children's services, families and individuals.

We endeavour to:

- provide leadership which empowers the decision makers within children's services.
- identify service provision gaps and needs, and proactively target resources to these areas.
- support and collaborate with other children's services providers who reflect similar philosophical beliefs.
- embrace the value of difference and debate.
- be efficient and sustainable in the use of resources.
- be a role model for best practice in corporate governance and organisational operation.
- be a respected organisational citizen and a positive force in the community.

Although Community Child Care Co-operative represents services in all areas of the children's services sector, our members are predominantly not for profit community based **long day care services** and not for profit community based **preschools**.

We have concentrated our submission primarily on:

- how the collection and publication of data in the *Report on Government Services* has enabled us to make ongoing comparisons of the delivery of children's services in NSW compared to other states;
- the degree to which data published in the *Report on Government Services* has led to changes in the delivery of children's services by government; and
- the ongoing usefulness of the *Report on Government Services* to us as an advocate for children's services.

**The *Report on Government Services* enables Community Child Care Co-op to make ongoing comparisons of the delivery of children's services in NSW compared to other states.**

Community Child Care Co-op has been using the annual *Report on Government Services* to enable us to make comparisons each year between the NSW State Government's spending on children's services and participation rates in children's services compared to other states. The ROGS is the only published report that clearly gives a snapshot of this expenditure and participation on a state by state basis. This enables us to compare how NSW is doing and to extract a range of useful statistics such as:

- Median cost of preschool education, nationally and in each state
- Expenditure on a per child basis by each state government
- Proportion of children attending preschool in the year before school in each state
- Total State/Territory government real expenditure on children's
- services per child aged 0–12 years

**CCCC has been able to use the data published in the *Report on Government Services* to advocate for changes in the delivery of children's services by government, especially at a NSW State Government level.**

Community Child Care Co-op has been able to use the comparative data published in the ROGS as an advocacy tool. The data as outlined above has consistently shown that the NSW Government spends less on children's services in general and preschool education in particular, than any other state. We have been able to show how this has led to higher costs of preschool education and resultant lower preschool participation rates in NSW than any other states.

**As such, *The Report on Government Services* has ongoing usefulness to us as an advocate for children's services.**

Community Child Care has been able to successfully use this data in advocating for increased expenditure on children's services and on preschool education in particular with the NSW Government. We believe it was the clear comparisons with other states that was possible through the ROGS data that led the NSW Government to announce a Preschool Investment and Reform Program in 1996 with increased funding.

The distribution of funding under the recently signed COAG *National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education* between the Commonwealth and States and Territories has an “emphasis on assisting those jurisdictions that are further behind in the delivery of preschool services.” The extent to which NSW was behind the other states and therefore in need of additional funding, would not have been obvious without the annual collection and publication of the comparative data through the ROGS.

The ROGS enable a direct comparison on a State by State basis. Community Child Care believes this is valuable data, presented in an accessible fashion and has used the data extensively in our advocacy work. We would mourn its passing.

**Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.**