Dear <insert name of MP or Senator>

I write to you today to request your support in calling on the Australian Government to return to an amended Child Care Subsidy System on 29 June 2020. I am a Family Day Care <service/educator> delivering care in <insert suburb or region>.

Although it is vital for family day care that we transition back to the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) on 29 June 2020, as you know, there is significant uncertainty surrounding the economic landscape over the coming months. Therefore, a number of adjustments to the CCS settings are required to ensure that the system is responsive, adequate and equitable in order to support affordable, accessible and quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) for our families and children.

The ECEC Relief Package has presented significant challenges for the family day care sector and our capacity to support the children and families in our local community. A number of the key issues, in summary, are as follows:

* The base relief payment was designed in the face of dramatically decreased attendance. Family day care has not experienced significant downturn in attendance, and in some cases has actually seen an upturn. As such, the base relief payment is inadequate in supporting the ongoing delivery of high levels of care.
* The ECEC Relief Package was designed as a viability safety net and is not adequately responsive to support increasing and/or variable demand as social restrictions are adjusted across our community.
* Although the Exceptional Circumstances Supplementary Payment program was designed as the mechanism by which variance in demand is accounted for, and to moderate the bluntness of the base relief payment instrument, it is not working to support us in supporting our families.
* In a period of unprecedented social disruption and unemployment, there are new educators seeking to enter the sector to establish a new career and a new small business in our community; however, the current funding framework does not allow for this, due to the fixed baseline funding model.
* The failings of the system have generated immense financial and emotional distress for a majority of family day care educators and services.

For <me/my service>, more specifically, the ECEC Relief Package has <insert details of the impact on you; your business; your families; your local community>.

As detailed in [the submission to the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Education, by our national peak body](https://uploads.prod01.sydney.platformos.com/instances/97/assets/public-pdf/Submissions-and-Briefs/Family%20Day%20Care%20Australia%20-%20Early%20Childhood%20Education%20and%20Care%20Funding%20Transition%20Recommendations%20-%20May%202020.pdf?updated=159046), we are calling not only for a 29 June 2020 transition date, but also for some key amendments to make the system more agile, accessible and affordable for families in a time of unprecedented uncertainty. A summary of the recommendations is as follows:

**CCS-specific recommendations (sector-wide)**

* adjust the CCS Activity Test for 12 months from 29 June 2020 to provide for a minimum 36 hours a fortnight of subsidised ECEC;
* retain the 60 allowable absences for 12 months from 29 June 2020;
* retain the capacity to waive gap fees on absences for 12 months from 29 June 2020;
* raise the CCS rate by 10% for each income threshold for 12 months from 29 June 2020; and
* make provision for a baseline of fully funded ECEC for Australia's most vulnerable children.

**CCS-specific recommendations (family day care specific)**

* permanently raise the CCS fee cap for family day care in line with centre-based care; and
* permanently provide a 20% loading to the CCS fee cap for non-standard hours family day care.

**Complementary funding**

* develop and implement a complementary, scaled, and attendance-based "top up" funding mechanism, that provides for baseline viability, working in parallel with the CCS.

In support of the children, families and small businesses in our community, I urge you to support our call for a return to an amended Child Care Subsidy System on 29 June 2020.

I appreciate your consideration of these important matters.

Yours sincerely

<insert your name>