



Select Committee on the Early Childhood Education and Care Sector in Victoria

Hearing Date: 25 February 2026

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: United Workers

Union **Received date:** 5 May 2026

1. **The CHAIR, p. 55**

Question Asked:

do you have any information or data from your members around these sorts of issues that you could make available to the committee? You can take it on notice.

Karen BUNKER: Well, we have a barcode at our services. We can scan it, and we can put in every single time that we are out of ratio or if –

The CHAIR: And you have got some collation of that?

Karen BUNKER: Our union has all that.

The CHAIR: Great. Could we have access to that? Is that possible?

Ffion EVANS: You absolutely can. You can have access to our submissions to ACECQA as well. Just to close on this, 83 per cent of educators said that they strongly agreed a common staffing loophole, the under-the-roof ratios, used by centres compromises the safety and wellbeing of children. We will take that on notice.

Response:

1. Earlyedqualitycheck.org.au is a platform built by educators for educators – and it's part of our campaign for a stronger early education system. We created the tool as a safe and powerful way for educators to speak out about what's happening in their centres.
2. A submission to the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) is attached for the Committee's reference.

See attachments

2. **Georgie CROZIER, pp. 56-57**

Question Asked:

Ms Evans, in their submission the UWU represents more than 150,000 members from over 45 industries. How many members in the early childhood setting do you have?

Ffion EVANS: Thousands.

Georgie CROZIER: How many?

Ffion EVANS: I will have to take that on notice.

Response:

Membership numbers change daily as people join and leave our union. The latest available membership information provided to the Fair work Commission can be found here <https://www.fwc.gov.au/registered-organisations/find-registered-organisation>

3. **Georgie CROZIER, p. 58**

Question Asked:

I am asking about the working with children check and the gaps in the system. Was your union talking to government about concerns? You may not have been, I do not know; I am just asking. Was it raised with your workers?

Ffion EVANS: Our union have been talking to government about many, many issues relating to safety.

Georgie CROZIER: I am specifically asking about the working with children check.

Ffion EVANS: I will have to take that on notice.

Response:

The United Workers Union has raised concerns with government regarding safety in early childhood education and care, including issues relating to the operation and effectiveness of Working With Children Check systems.

This has been reflected in formal submissions, including the following recent submission:

<https://unitedworkers.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/UWU-NSW-WWCC-Submission-13-March-2026.pdf>

These issues have also been raised by members through union consultations, surveys, and casework, and have informed the union's advocacy on Working with Children Check arrangements.

See attachments