



Fatima Payman
Senator for Western Australia

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The case for a publicly-run and owned Early Childhood Education and Care system

Western Australian Independent Senator Fatima Payman is today launching a policy paper to pave the way for cheaper, higher-quality and more accessible early childhood education and care (ECEC).

The paper which can be [found here](#), sets out the three main phases to transition to higher public ownership of the ECEC industry, which is currently plagued with issues from staffing shortages, breaches of children’s safety and child abuse, and an over-reliance on volatile for-profit operators.

Recently, G8 Education’s decision to close and sell centres with little notice shows how a for-profit system fails families, workers, children and the entire community.

Senator Payman said G8’s closures should be seen as an opportunity to reform the system in a more meaningful way.

“G8 is reportedly about to put 40 centres across the country on the market, including 12 here in WA. How good would it be if the Federal Government bought and operated those centres?” Senator Payman said.

“Better oversight would mean higher quality care and increased safety for children, a public sector enterprise agreement would mean better wages for workers, accessibility would improve and as for the cost it would be a community investment rather than a dividend for shareholders.

“The Labor Government has made some decent in-roads into improving the sector over the last four years, including the introduction of the temporary pay rise, which I hope they will provide ongoing funding for in next week’s budget.

“However, the vision is missing, it’s all just tinkering around the edges. To me, a complete overhaul of early childhood education and care is a no brainer that could make Australia truly the envy of the world.”

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