



## Budget threat to Early Childhood Education

The Government is planning funding cuts to early childhood education in the Budget on May 20. Although details are not available and we can only speculate about the changes, this is a wake-up call we can't ignore and a signal that our sector may be under attack.

The Government's decision to abandon the target of 100 per cent qualified teachers may indicate that the funding bands that encourage filling more than 80 percent of regulated positions with qualified teachers may be at risk.

Although we don't know the precise details we can spend this time preparing for any challenge.

- Talk to your colleagues and families about possible threats to the quality for children and possible costs to parents/whanau.
- Keep in touch with the latest information on this issue by signing up to the networking site, [www.ecetogether.org.nz](http://www.ecetogether.org.nz).
- Get involved in our campaign - email [ecetogether@nzei.org.nz](mailto:ecetogether@nzei.org.nz).

Investment in early education offers one of the greatest returns of any state spending. It leads to greater levels of educational achievement, employment levels, and the economic benefits that this creates. It has positive spin-offs in terms of health and social outcomes and reduced crime. It also means parents can take part in paid work or study, so it contributes to a more productive economy.

However, all the evidence shows that it is quality education that makes the difference. Cutting funding, thereby reducing quality, will erode the educational, economic and social benefits of early childhood education.

NZEI Te Riu Roa is ready to respond to what happens on budget day. We are attending a Government-run post-budget briefing, and the ECE caucus is coming together for a teleconference afterwards.

We need to fight to protect the gains we have made in recent years, so that all children can have access to quality affordable early childhood education.

---

[membership@nzei.org.nz](mailto:membership@nzei.org.nz) • [update your membership details](#) • [unsubscribe](#)  
0800 NZEI HELP (0800 693 443) • PO Box 466, Wellington, NZ, 6140