<Member Name>
Member for <Electorate>
<Address>

<Date>

Dear <Member Name>,

**Childcare Training Funding Cuts**

I write in relation to childcare services here in <Electorate>.

Our centre, <Your Centre Name>, currently has an enrolment of <##> children, from <##> families, servicing the suburbs of <enter suburbs>.

As you know, the Victorian Department of Education and Training made a decision late last year to drastically, and immediately, cut training allocations for the Certificate III and Diploma in Early Childhood Education & Care (ECEC). This was due to a perceived ‘gross oversupply’ of qualified educators in the industry.

As a result, **we can no longer access formal in-workplace training for our staff.**

Put simply, **this is a disaster for our centre**. Our experience, formed over many years professionally servicing our community, is that **students trained solely in classrooms come woefully underprepared** for life as an early childhood educator and carer.

We consider that the **best training is principally conducted in the workplace**.

The government’s changes **end in-workplace training for all future ECEC workers**.

In assessing the number of places required by the industry, the government has made two incorrect assumptions:

1. that there will minimal growth in overall childcare demand, despite the upcoming **doubling in Commonwealth childcare subsidies** for most families; and
2. that **just 3.5%** of those currently employed in the industry will leave due to retirement, change of industry or exiting the workforce.

In fact, **every other government in Australia**, state and federal, considers there will be a **large increase childcare demand** in 2018-2019. Additionally, the industry currently experiences an employee ‘churn’ rate of **30%, not 3%.**
*Source: Skills IQ Report – Children’s Education and Care – April 2017*

<if a Labor MP>
We urge you to **urgently reconsider this decision** to ensure that demand for childcare places can be met in 2018.

<if a non-Labor MP>
We urge you to **pressure the government to reverse this decision** to ensure that demand for childcare places can be met in 2018.

Yours sincerely,

<Your Name>
<Your Position Title>
<Your Centre Name>