

From: Farah Sulaiman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 June 2017 4:23 PM
To: Clare Patterson
Subject: Sydney roundtable - further insight

Hi Megan and Clare

Hope this email finds you in good health.
Thank you for having me as a participant at the roundtable discussion.

I would like to have the opportunity to add few insights relating to the the comment I made at the roundtable regarding how society does not view parenting as work.

I mentioned that when I asked parents 'what have you been doing in the last two years?' I usually get a response of ' JUST parenting.' It would be a great injustice to the mums and dads that I interact with for me to say that they are not proud of what they are doing. Rather they are proud dedicated individuals who put their children first before themselves and who are striving to give their children the best, however due to them not generating income, society views them as a group who does not 'work'. Thus this may lower the self esteem and confidences of stay at home parents. When a stay at home parents is ready for work or is required to work, society tends to overlook their skills, experience and talents they acquired through parenting. Job advertisement on average require one to have a minimum 1 year work experience. For a stay at home parents this means that their skill sets are overlooked, thus further causing barrier to employment and further demoralising them. For instance I have a dedicated parent who takes time off from her busy schedule to assist newly arrived refugee friends to appointments. Her career goal is to become an interpreter. I truely hope that once she she finsihed her course and is ready to seek employment, potential employers will not dismiss her application due to lack of professional experience.

It will be great to see job advertisement which recognise stay at home parents skill sets and encourage stay at home parents to apply for the positions. Other options could be encouraging employers to have traineeship positions available for stay at home parents.

Regarding onsite childminding, I can not express enough the need for this service to be available for courses and programs that is design to encourage parents with young children to attend. The parents that I assist are mostly open to studying, however childcare factor is a major barrier for them to partake in courses.

Excuse the long email, I hope my insight is of relevance to your work.

Kind Regards

Farah Sulaiman

Activities coordinator ParentsNext program

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