

47th Annual NZCA Conference & AGM

Pasifika members network meeting

Note taker: Sue Vaealiki

- Funding for Pasifika children is a problem
- Parents cant afford to pay for their ece education
- What could we do to help our parents to help our children get an early childhood education?
- I know the government gives us funding – the thing is, I have two grandchildren but I cannot afford for grandchildren to go
- Jan – the emphasis is on participation yet the childcare subsidies have had increased so parents have less access and less funding to services. Doubly hard for Pasifika student.
- How will the goal of participation be achieved with these barriers?
- We cannot be leaders of tomorrow if our children can't be educated.
- TB – Pasifika research in Manukau – only 5-6% of people cannot afford, Pasifika would prefer to mind children at home.
- Quality is important for our children
- A very big concern – we want to be level with other sectors, not falling behind
- Children of families who don't have permanent residence – how much do they have to pay? Most just stay at home
- Jan – they can go to ece
- But they are not eligible for subsidies
- Nita – Gisborne, field working immigrant, ece, 'needs not met'. Children are being minded by family, very taxing hours for ece teachers.
- Ece centres responding by charging less
- Children – parents are in work, factories, shift work, costs are barriers
- Puna – less participation, need therefore to use many groups
- Staff qualified and need to look after our teachers
- Punanga – qualified teachers, we have many, went to other centres. Action – to incentivise Pasifika education.
- Special needs, issues raised – Hard to get support from special education, TB talked about ringing MOE, seems to be ok in Auckland, strategy is to be persistent.
- Pasifika need professional development