

1:4 is SOON to be LAW!

Congratulations to NSW Cabinet, the NSW Government and DoCS for taking this step. Their decisive action on this issue shows true leadership. **We need to ensure the 1:4 ratio is implemented effectively so that all babies receive the best of care at all times.** The Regulations Review Discussion Paper (page 24) canvases options for introducing the 1:4 ratio. We urge everyone to consider this section of the discussion paper in detail. These options include:

1. **A phased implementation process** where larger services would introduce the 1:4 ratio ahead of smaller services.



A phased approach to implementing the new ratio is sensible provided it is within 3 months of the tabling of the regulation in 2010, given that there is at least 14 months for services to prepare.

2. **A targeted approach.** Services would only need to apply the 1:4 staff:child ratio during core operating hours, say 9 am–5 pm only.



Babies need high quality care always! All hours in a child care service are “core hours” This approach is unwise and is difficult to regulate.

3. **A flexible-age range approach.** Would require a ratio of 1:4 for a group of children aged 0–2 years, however when a group has no children aged less than 15 months, allows for flexibility.



All babies and toddlers deserve the best quality education care at all times, and a 1:4 ratio delivers this for all groupings including mixed aged groups.

4. **A 1:4 ratio replaces the 1:5 ratio.** Where the current 1:5 ratio is simply replaced with 1:4 ratio for children aged under two years of age



The commitment made by the NSW Government to the 1:4 ratio must be implemented without conditions. Training and support needs to be available to services as they transition.

Interested in finding out more? Please go to our website www.cccnsw.org.au/ratios or contact Project Officer Carol Nagel on 8922 6425.

Campaign Supporters

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- Community Child Care Co-operative (CCCC)
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- Illawarra Area Child Care (IACC)
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