

# I. Executive Summary

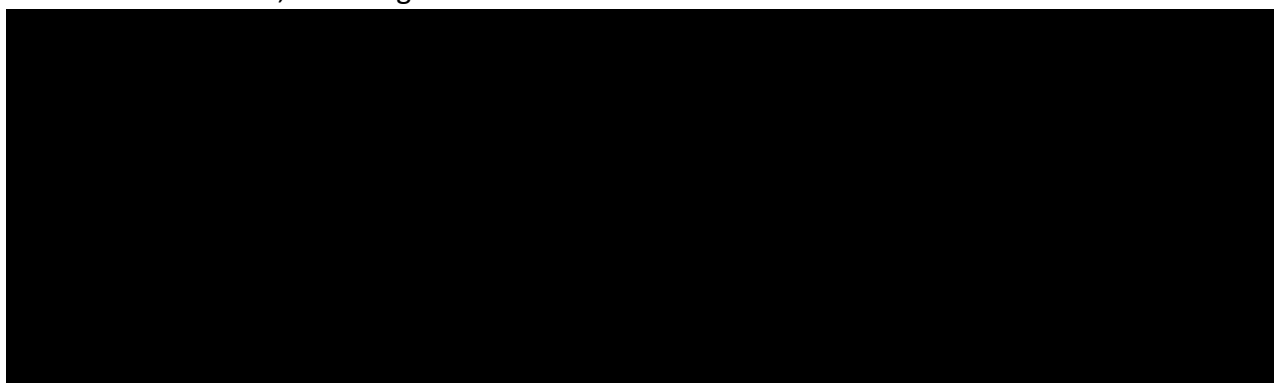
## Background

On 17 November 2013, the Government announced the establishment of a Productivity Commission Inquiry into Child Care and Early Childhood Learning. The role of the Productivity Commission was to identify how the current system can be improved and made more responsive to the needs of Australian families.

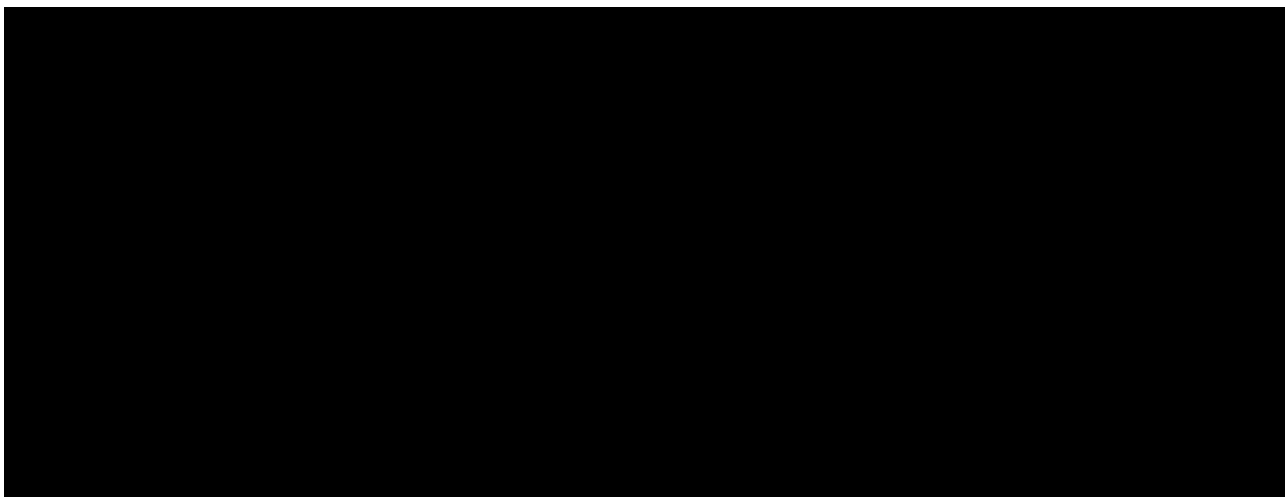
With the Report recommendations being considered by the Government, there was a need to consult with parents/ carers about possible child care financial assistance models, including that recommended by the Productivity Commission.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioned ORIMA Research to conduct quantitative research to help inform the development of the Government's future policy in child care.

The key objective of the quantitative research was to gauge and quantify Australian families' perceptions of, and likely behavioural responses to, a range of possible child care financial assistance models, including:



This report presents the findings of that research



## II. Introduction

### A. Background

On 17 November 2013, the Government announced the establishment of a Productivity Commission Inquiry into Child Care and Early Childhood Learning. The role of the Productivity Commission was to identify how the current system can be improved and made more responsive to the needs of Australian families.

The Productivity Commission's Final Report (the Report) was delivered to Government on 31 October 2014 and released on 20 February 2015. The Commission was asked to report on ways to increase the affordability, accessibility and flexibility of child care. Some of the key recommendations of the Report included:

- ◆ A single means-tested benchmark subsidy for the most used financial assistance programs;
- ◆ Changes to the activity test to encourage workforce participation; and
- ◆ Shifting the use of nannies from the unregulated (i.e. informal) system to the regulated (i.e. formal) system in order to increase the types of child care options available to families.

With the Report being considered by the Government, there was a need to consult with parents/ carers about possible child care financial assistance models, including that recommended by the Productivity Commission.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioned ORIMA Research to conduct quantitative research to help inform the development of the Government's future policy in child care.

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### B. Research objectives

The key objective of the quantitative research was to gauge and quantify Australian families' perceptions of, and likely behavioural responses to a range of possible child care financial assistance models.