



Ireland's system of early childhood education and care (ECEC) is in crisis – it's not working for children, families, or educators.



A lack of places



Unequal access



High staff turnover



Low pay



Precarious working conditions

Together For Public

Our 40-organisation alliance, led by NWC, is calling for the introduction of a public system of ECEC (including school aged care) to guarantee every child a right to an affordable, public-funded and provided, high-quality place in their community. We're calling on Government to acquire premises, deliver State childcare, improve standards and inclusivity with steps arranged through 3 pillars:

Pillar 1: Affordability



Achieve €200 per month fees by the state taking on educators' wages.

€867

current median monthly fee for full daycare



€449.37

per month with the full universal subsidy for 45 hours

Despite recent fee decreases, most families are still paying over the €200 per month promised.

If the state takes full responsibility for staff wages, the cost of a full-time place would fall from €190 to €59 per week, (€255 per month) close of the Government's €200 per month per child target:

Cost Components of weekly Median Full-Time Day Care Fees (€190)

Employee compensation	All other expenditure	Total expenditure	Total (excl. employee compensation)
131	59	190	59



€255 per month

Pillar 2: Quality & inclusion



Put quality, inclusion, diversity and flexibility at the heart of reforms.



Quality

Give staff adequate time, trainings, and professional development and acknowledgement.

Ensure services are trauma-informed, culturally sensitive and in line with Ireland's Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Charter.



Inclusion & Diversity



Flexibility

Provide flexibility for parents' and families' needs.

Pillar 3: Accessibility



Transition to a public system of early years and ensure every child a right to childcare in Ireland.



Government should have a central and direct role in supporting early years in Ireland, to ensure access for all.



Transition to public childcare so the State takes over the delivery of ECEC, acquires buildings and premises, beyond tendering to non-profit providers.



Grow through existing community networks & private providers to increase places & affordability & start a phased transition from a market-led to a public system.



Our Vision for Public Childcare



Similar to our primary school system – every child is guaranteed a high-quality, affordable, accessible place



Work satisfaction and proper pay for educators



Women can fully participate in all aspects of society, including work, education, public participation

Improved pay and working conditions for the largely female workforce

Greater women's equality

Better outcomes for children

Wider benefits for society and value for money

A public system means...



Less administrative burden for providers and parents

Better paid family leave and better work life balance policies



Now is the time for a transition to a universal, rights-based, public system of services for all children, families and communities.

Read our [Roadmap to Public Childcare](#).

Contact Alexandra Richardson, Senior Policy Coordinator, alexr@nwci.ie for more information.