



## Office of Hon Anne Tolley

MP for East Coast

Minister of Education

Minister Responsible for the Education Review Office

05 MAY 2011

Arwen Hann  
Communications Manager  
ChildForum

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Dear Arwen Hann

Thank you for your email of 15 April 2011 providing feedback from your members regarding the increase, from 1 July this year, in maximum centre size from 50 to 150 licensed child places.

I have committed to these changes to reduce the paperwork and other compliance costs associated with the current requirement for early childhood education and care (ECE) services on the same site to have multiple licences. This change also allows for those ECE services with capacity to increase the number of children they are licensed for.

I remain committed to maintaining regulated quality standards across the ECE sector. ECE services seeking to amend their licence to enrol more than 50 children will be granted an increase in licence maximum only if Ministry of Education officials are assured that the health and safety and quality of their ECE service is appropriate. These requirements will be clearly set out on the Ministry's website [www.lead.ece.govt.nz](http://www.lead.ece.govt.nz).

I have also directed ministry officials to provide strengthened guidance to the sector to support high quality ECE in larger services, including information on group size. I trust that once this information and guidance is released that it will provide reassurance to your members.

Thank you for providing me with this information. I appreciate the important role ChildForum has in encouraging discussion and debate around ECE.

Yours sincerely

Hon Anne Tolley  
Minister of Education