

# “Childcare needs a substantive funding increase, not just top-ups from government.”

**Pam Croxford**

## Integration of Childcare with ECE

- 1981 - State Services Commission Report Early Childhood Care and Education recommendations:
  - First direct funding package to childcare centres
  - Funding to be tagged to qualified staff numbers
- 1984 - First national award setting out minimum terms and conditions for childcare workers
- 1985 - Childcare Centre Regulations amended to include
  - A programme statement
  - A clear outline of discipline practices
  - Training
- Establishment of an Accreditation Board to assess training courses to ensure they meet the requirements of a 'recognised qualification'
- Centres require minimum of one trained staff member
- B Class licenses to be disestablished
- 1987 - three year integrated teacher education qualification introduced
- 1989 - Before Five: Early Childhood Care and Education in New Zealand - a new policy road map.

### \$50 per week

Noreen Moorhouse, QSM, started work for Whangārei Childcare Centre in a 'near derelict' house, given by the Council on a renewable three month basis. She was delighted when she found out she was going to earn \$50 a week.



Noreen with children from the Whangārei Childcare Centre outside the new purpose-built centre before it opened in the 1980s.

*“But of course I didn't always get it because we didn't always make \$50 after expenses. So sometimes it was \$25.”*

*“I do not regard the proposed childcare regulations as relating to the ideal but prescribing minimum safeguards.”*

Minister of Social Welfare, Hon. Anne Herous, 1985

## Association Milestones

- 1980 - Name change to New Zealand Childcare Association enables individuals to become members
- 1981 - First pōwhiri at NZCA conference in Auckland
- 1987 - 1,010 members, 16 branches
- 1988 - 239 trainees enrolled in Association training programmes.

*“The government does not regard it as its responsibility to provide childcare services direct to the community.”*

Minister of Social Welfare, Hon. Venn Young, 1983

**Doubled the childcare subsidies to centres and increased funding for trained staff / staff in training**

**Māori becomes an 'official' language**



**1984-1990 governed by Labour**

**Kōhanga Reo movement began**



**1980-1984 governed by National**

**Ngā Tamariki Iti o Aotearoa - Introduction of Māori studies for Pre-School Children**

**Early Childhood Workers Union (ECWU) registered**

**First direct government funding to centres**

**First direct grant from government to the Association; \$25,000 for training**

**First licensed Pacific Language ECE centre, A'oga Fa'a Samoa opened in Auckland**

Budget 1985 brought an increase in funding for children which provided a rise in the childcare subsidy including grants for trained staff and training incentives.



An additional \$2.7 million for childcare, but still no pot of gold.  
*“the near doubling of money has... nevertheless disappointed many of our members.”*  
Cathy Lythe, 1985

*“Our Children are our future. They need a good start in life. I believe Before Five will give them that”.*

David Lange PM and Minister of Education, 1988

The new 1985 Childcare Centre Regulations only covered minimum standards rather than improving staffing ratios.

**Please Mr Prime Minister let Mummy keep her job...**

Caryl Hamer's daughter Irene was upset when she overheard that her mother might not be able to keep her job as part-time NZCA Training Director due to lack of funding. Irene declared that she would write to "that mouldy Muldoon".



Irene received a reply from the PM: *“Dear Irene ...I really liked the flowers you drew around the edge...”*, and her request was passed on to Hon. Venn Young, Minister of Social Welfare. Young wrote back, *“Dear Irene...I am pleased to tell you that a grant of \$25,000 to the NZCA has been approved, so that your mother can keep her job.”*

## A'oga Fa'a Samoa - a journey

From humble beginnings in the homes of Samoan families, Jan Taouma set up the first Pacific Island Language ECE centre in New Zealand.

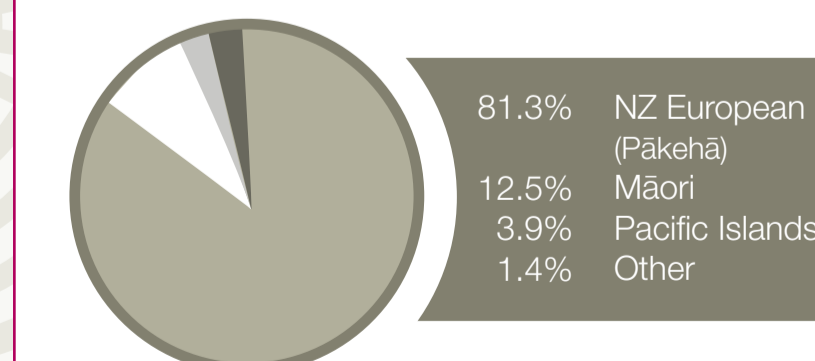
In the early 80's, Samoan families in Auckland would gather in various homes to allow their children the opportunity to interact with other Samoan families.

Understanding the need to retain the cultural heritage of these Pacific Island Children, Jan Taouma operated the first Pacific Island language ECE centre, opened in 1984, with the help of Samoan teachers and parents. This centre was named A'oga Fa'a Samoa.

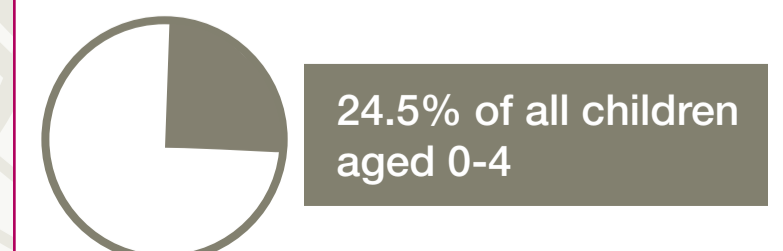
Jan later became a member of the Association's Council from 1992-2012.



**Population**  
**3,263,283**



**Children attending ECE**  
**61,975**



**Employment**  
**\$383.43**

average weekly wage (both sexes)

Unemployment rate 4.1% (men only)

Women in work 51.8%

**Number of ECE services**  
**552**      **674**

free kindergartens      playcentres  
**611**  
childcare centres