

Private Operators Have Muscled in on Before and After-School Care

A big change has completely unfolded at Victorian schools which is ultimately costing parents a lot of money.

There are more than 70 percent programs running in the state regarding before-school and after-school care. The profit of this service is flowing back into the community, as these services are mostly running by schools or local councils.

Victoria's peak organization for community-owned education said private operators were slugging parents.

All schools and local councils have been running this service for two decades, with the profit flowing back into the community.

According to Victoria's organization for community-owned education, slugging parents were the private operators.

Leanne Giardina, Community Child Care executive director, stated, "There are private [out of school care services](#) who are charging an estimated average of \$27 after-school care session and \$17 for before -school care.

This is equal to the average of \$16 and \$10 at school based programs.

"Victoria doesn't have any tender process for this vital cause, unlike New South Wales and Queensland." She said. That enables private operators to grow.

For the lucrative rental fees, cash-starved principals are outsourcing their programs to private operators, Ms. Giardina said. The operators are charging extra fees to the parents to recoup the fees. Our main concern is that it is becoming less and less affordable and parents don't have any other choice.

Michelle Cooper also relies on before-school care for her 7year-old daughter Macy, who attends a service at Ivanhoe East Primary School, which is run by one of the largest private operators, OSHClub. She is charged \$17 for the morning session. The school-based service at the nearby Ivanhoe Primary School charges \$13, according to its website.

Ms. Cooper said that after paying operator, OSHClub. She is charged \$17 for the morning session. The school-based service at the nearby Ivanhoe Primary School charges \$13, according to its website.

She said, "The Astronomical childcare fees seem reasonable first, but when I checked out the other offering programs it was too much." I'm hopeful that the price difference is because of the quality of care. All the parents can claim back 50 percent of the cost through the child care rebate.

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