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05 October 2007 by Minister, refer to Registere

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Health, Social Security and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Panel: Income Support **Review of Income Support Proposals** 

With reference to the above proposals being presented to the States on 9th October 2007 by the Income Support Sub-Panel, the Trust wishes to highlight its support for a couple of the proposals with respect to the childcare component of the Income Support System.

The Jersey Child Care Trust has been lobbying to add Accredited Nannies to Registered Child Care in the Income Support Scheme to ensure equity of access for parents using quality childcare. Accredited Nannies can be an effective childcare choice for a family with two pre-school children or for two families who can share one nanny.

The Trust is pleased to see that the Income Support Scheme will provide for the entitlement of the child day care component to be available to those in education or training but is concerned that this is limited to those who are engaged in education or training that is expected to increase the individual's earning capacity. The Trust therefore supports the recommendation of the Scrutiny Panel to ensure that this education or training should not necessarily need to increase the individual's earning capacity. The Trust is occasionally presented with individuals wishing to move from the finance industry into childcare for family or personal satisfaction reasons and it would be unfortunate if in making this decision they were not able to benefit from the Income Support provisions because it does not satisfy the increased earning capacity condition.

The Trust has received an assurance from the Minister for Social Security that the situation of Accredited Nannies, as well as that of students in training, will be monitored and be open to review in the light of experience, and is grateful for this. Nevertheless, and consistent with the representations the Trust has made to-date, the Trust would wish to voice its support for the Panel's recommendations to introduce these two changes at the point of commencement of the Income Support System.

Yours faithfully

Colin Powell CBE

Chairman

