# Summary for Episode No Link

* - Today's podcast from Chartered Accountants Ireland is discussing childcare issues in the context of the general election
* - The participants, Stephen Lowry and Crona Clasey, have worked extensively on childcare policy in Ireland
* - A third of their members pay up to €1000 a month per child for childcare, with another third paying between €1000 and €2000
* - There are also significant difficulties in obtaining a spot in a childcare facility, with 97% of respondents saying their working pattern or career has been impacted by managing childcare responsibilities
* - Majority of this burden falls on women, with many facing career stagnation or drop-off after childbirth
* - The Fine Gael party pledges to:
* - Cap childcare at €200 per month per child
* - Extend early childhood care and education by one hour
* - Create 30,000 new early learning places by 2030
* - Consult all stakeholders and launch an action plan for a new childcare system within 100 days of new administration
* - The Fianna Fáil party pledges to:
* - Increase subsidies and reduce childcare fees to €200 per month per child, if economic conditions allow
* - Establish a national childcare price register
* - Provide capital investment to build state-owned child care facilities
* - The Sinn Féin party pledges:
* - A €10 per day childcare fee
* - To conduct a full review of core funding
* - To provide public funding of €53.8 million to increase the hourly wage of childcare workers by €1.50
* - To extend parental and maternity leave to cover the first 52 weeks of a child's life.