# Summary for Episode No Link

* - The podcast from Chartered Accountants Ireland discussed childcare issues in the party's general election manifestos.
* - The speakers highlighted the significant financial burden of childcare, with a third of their members paying up to €1000 per child per month and another third paying between €1000 and €2000.
* - Despite subsidies, a majority of members reported difficulties securing a place in childcare facilities.
* - Around 97% of respondent members said their career or work patterns were impacted due to childcare, with 45% reducing work hours or requesting flexible hours because of it.
* - The participants discussed how childcare is not just a societal issue but an economic one that disproportionately affects women, a phenomenon referred to as the "motherhood penalty".
* - Fine Gael's manifesto commits to capping childcare costs at €200 per month per child, extending the early childhood care and education scheme by an hour, creating 30,000 new early learning places by 2030, and consulting stakeholders to launch a new childcare system within the first 100 days of a new administration.
* - Fianna Fáil's manifesto promises to increase subsidies, reduce childcare fees to €200 per month per child (economic conditions permitting), establish a national childcare price register for fee transparency, and provide capital investment to build or purchase state-owned childcare facilities which can be leased to community childcare providers.
* - Sinn Féin's manifesto promises €10 per day childcare for both cribs and childminders, a full review of core funding distribution to providers, and public funding of €53.8 million for an initial €1.50/hr wage increase for childcare workers to retain staff. They also plan to extend parental and maternity leave to cover the first year of a child's life.