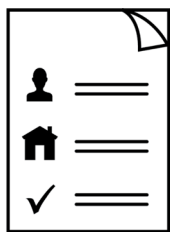


The Early Years Strategy Discussion Paper



Easy Read

About this booklet



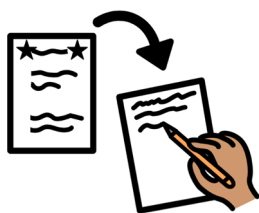
This booklet is from the
Department of Social Services.



This booklet is written in a way that is easy
to understand.



You can read more information about this topic
on our website at
[dss.gov.au/families-and-children-
programs-services/early-years-strategy](https://dss.gov.au/families-and-children-programs-services/early-years-strategy)



We add a star before and after *hard words*.
Then we explain what the words mean.



You can ask someone to help you read and
understand this booklet.



Contact information is at the end of this booklet.



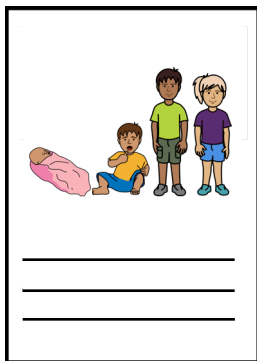
Australian Government
Department of Social Services

About us

We are part of the Australian Government.

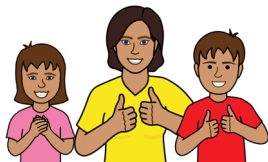


We support people in Australia to access services that are good and fair.

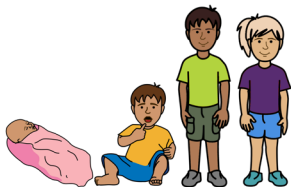


Why are we writing an Early Years Strategy?

The Australian Government is writing an *Early Years Strategy*.



An Early Years Strategy means a plan about how to help children do well in life.

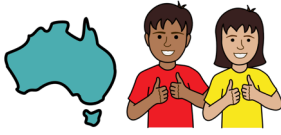


The Strategy focuses on

- children aged 0 to 5 years
- babies who will be born.



A child's early years are important.



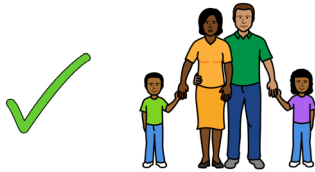
We want every child in Australia to

- have a good start to life

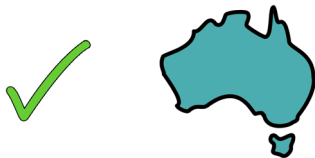


- reach their goals in life.

The Strategy will help us make new plans that are good for



- every child and family

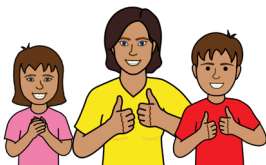


- everyone in Australia.

Your ideas



We want to hear your ideas about what we should focus on when writing the Strategy.



Your ideas will help us to make good plans.



We want to know what is important to different people living in Australia. For example

- parents and grandparents



- other family members



- carers



- teachers and other people who work with children.



We want to hear ideas from

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



- people with disability



- people with *CALD* backgrounds
 - CALD means people with different cultures and languages

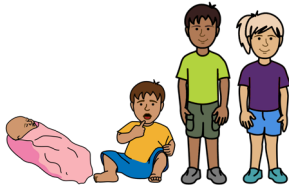


- people who live far away from a city



- people from the *LGBTQIA+* community
 - LGBTQIA+ means people with different genders and sexualities.

What we will do



**We will focus on children
aged 0 to 5 years**

The Strategy will focus on the early years.



When young children have what they need, they
have the opportunity to do well in life.



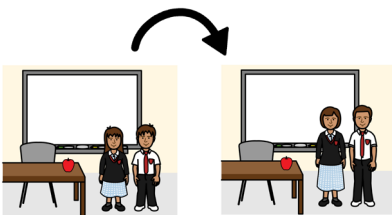
We will make a Strategy

A Strategy will help children in Australia to

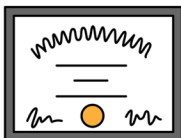
- learn



- grow



- do well.



The Strategy will have a *Commonwealth*
Government focus.

Commonwealth means Australian Government.



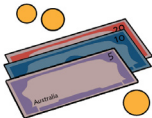


All areas of the Commonwealth Government will work together

The Government helps children and families in different ways.

For example

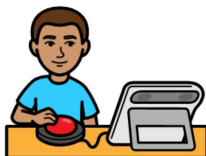
- healthcare services
- law services
- education services
- extra help with money.



The Government also has programs to help children and families who are *disadvantaged*.

For example

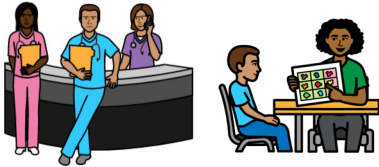
- First Nations people
- people with disability.



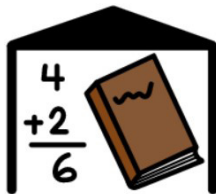
Disadvantaged means people do **not** have the same opportunities as others in society.



We want different areas of the Government to work together to give the best services to children and families.

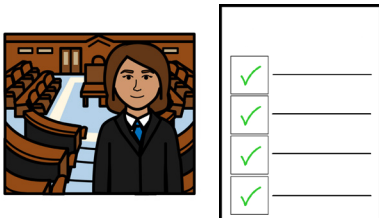


For example, the Department of Health and Department of Education worked together to make the Connected Beginnings program.



This program helps First Nations children get health and education services so they are ready for school.

The Strategy will work with other Government strategies



We will get good results when different Government strategies work together.

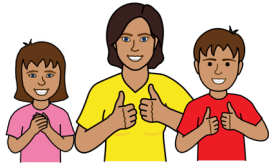
We will protect the rights of children



The Strategy will follow *United Nations Conventions* to protect the rights of all children.

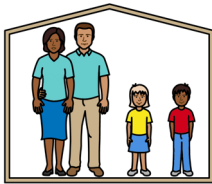
United Nations Conventions are rules about human rights that countries agree to follow.

We will focus on strengths



The Strategy will focus on things children, families and communities can do.

We will include ideas from children and families



Children and families are at the centre of the Strategy.

We will learn what is important to children and families.

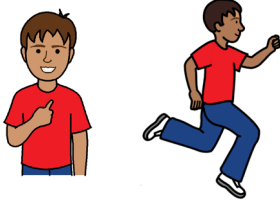
For example

- health
- love
- play
- friendships
- culture
- community.





We will focus on the needs of First Nations people



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have the right to grow up healthy and happy.



Culture and community are important to First Nations children and families.



The Strategy will have a strong focus on support for First Nations children and families.

We will work with First Nations people and all governments to make good programs.

We will include everyone



The Strategy will include everyone.

For example, children and families with different

- cultures and religions



- languages



- care needs



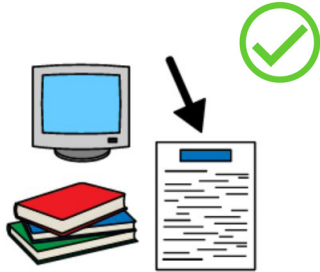
- abilities

- experiences



- identities.

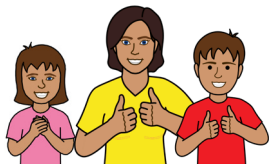
We will use good information to make the Strategy



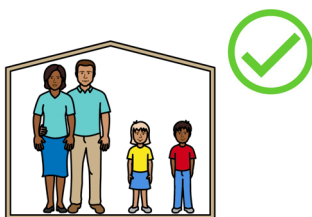
We have good information about children and families in Australia.

This information will help us make plans that meet the needs of children and families in Australia.

Why is an Early Years Strategy important?



We **must** support children in Australia to do well in life.

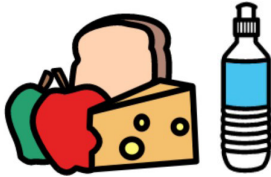


Most children in Australia have what they need to do well in life.



Some children in Australia do **not** get the support they need.

For example



- good food and water



- good health care



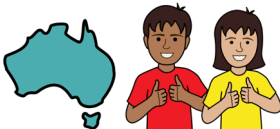
- good care and safety



- good education.



This means some children do **not** learn and grow as well as they could.



When we have good programs that help each child to learn and grow, everyone in Australia benefits.



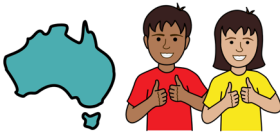
Your ideas

We want to hear your ideas about the Strategy.

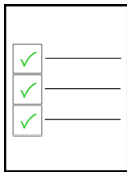
We have 8 questions.



1 What should the Strategy include?



2 What outcomes should the Strategy achieve?

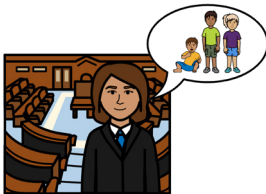


3 What are the most important outcomes?

4 Why are those outcomes important?



5 How can we help disadvantaged children and their families?

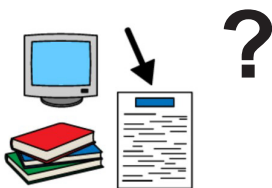


6 How can we get governments and services to work together to achieve good outcomes?



7 What *principles* should guide the Strategy?

- principles are important things to focus on, for example, the Strategy includes everyone.



8 Is there any research or other information we should use to help make the Strategy?

What happens next?

| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

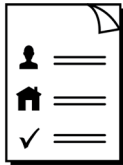
We have a *survey* about the Strategy.

A survey is a list of questions to learn more about something.

You can tell us your ideas in different ways.

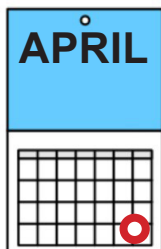
For example

- do a survey
 - you can do an Easy Read survey
- send us your ideas
- join a meeting.



For more information visit

dss.gov.au/families-and-children-programs-services/early-years-strategy



You **must** send us your ideas by

30 April 2023.



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

More information

For more information, contact the
Department of Social Services.



Website

[dss.gov.au/families-and-children-
programs-services/early-years-strategy](https://dss.gov.au/families-and-children-programs-services/early-years-strategy)



Email

earlyyearsengagement@dss.gov.au



Mail

Early Years Strategy
GPO Box 9820
Department of Social Services
Canberra ACT 2601



If you need help to hear or speak, contact the National Relay Service.

Call 1300 555 727

Website

communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs



If you need a translator, contact TIS National.

Website

tisnational.gov.au/en/Non-English-speakers



Acknowledgement of Country

The Commonwealth Government acknowledges the traditional owners of Country throughout Australia on which we gather, live, work and stand.

We acknowledge all traditional custodians, their Elders past, present and emerging and we pay our respects to their continuing connection to their culture, community, land, sea and water.

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