

## **ANONYMOUS 17250 - New submission from Early Years Strategy - Public Submissions**

The vision we should have for our nation's children is to address why 45 % of children 0-5 years are vulnerable in one or more developmental domains,(Australian Early Developmental Census). We should approach this vexed question with a strengths based, creative mindset, then our vision will be attentive to the factors to redress this statistic that should concern every Australian.

1. Education is holistic and involves health, wellbeing and economic factors so our vision needs to view children as whole beings in an accelerated developmental period unlike no other , in their lifetime, where aspects of health and wellbeing, active learning etc can not be easily redressed when things go wrong. We need service integration like the UK concept of Children's Centres where families can access, post and ante-natal services, Allied Health, Quality Early education etc in a one stop family centered way.
2. Early education provision for 0-5 children needs to be seen as a continuum of life-long learning, a unique stage - not a "waiting room" for school readiness. This means that Teachers, Educators need an uplift in status and pay, conditions that reflect parity with other Teachers and their specialist knowledge valued and built upon throughout their careers. Early Childhood Teaching is seen as second rate to other areas of Teaching with little career structure and unseemly workloads that make recruitment for quality personnel complex, seen in a recruitment crisis. If you cant get integrated education right, you won't get early development right.Please make quality education possible