

ANONYMOUS 17268 - New submission from Early Years Strategy - Public Submissions

I am very satisfied with the range and availability of different affordable services to support me in raising my children in my local government area.

I am not convinced that there is a desperate need to deliver more universal programs across the country as is signalled by this statement: "Many of these Commonwealth early childhood policies and programs and their funding are delivered across different departments and agencies. This structure tends to create silos that discourage collaboration across organisations and may hamper the Commonwealth's efforts to deliver the best outcomes for children and families. " (p6 of the discussion paper).

The raising of a child starts with a family and most programs and services that best support families are best governed by local services (not always a federal program).

What I think the commonwealth can have the most influence in early childhood right now which is lacking, is the support of mums who choose to stay home to raise their children in the early years. While our country now readily accepts the "right" to subsidised childcare to allow both care givers to "go back to work" (which is really all about the rights of a parent rather than the rights of a child), I don't think we give the same weight in "rights" towards mums who want to "choose" to stay home to raise their little ones in the early years. Right now many of us mums (who are part of a 2 parent household, are middle income earners and with an average home mortgage) have no choice BUT to return to work in order to afford modern day average living. That's not a "choice" in my view.