

17138 - New submission from Early Years Strategy - Public Submissions

This initial discussion paper is a good start. I felt though that key areas outlined below were missing or not clear to me:

1- Physical resources: Most kinders operate using limited infrastructure provided by councils. There should be provision for expanding or building new centres.

2- Human resources: It is clear that the education sector is struggling with the limited availability of teachers. A clear plan to training and retaining teachers is vital for this plan to work.

3- Support to staff: Following from the above, a clear strategy to improve the financial attractiveness of teaching is important. At the moment, the investment in obtaining qualifications in teaching do not always return clear dividends compared to other types of work.

4- Support to diverse backgrounds: Some centres in metropolitan areas have support available for children from diverse backgrounds. This is not always the case in regional and rural areas. Training of staff in this space will be required.

5- Entry age: It would be beneficial to see what the proposed entry age for the framework is. At the moment, some states are introducing kinder to 3YO children but not at a consistent weekly frequency between centres. A question is if this age is appropriate and deliverable at scale or if changes are required.