

# Australia's views on the draft Early Years Strategy 2024-2034

Thank you for participating in our survey, "Australia's views on the draft Early Years Strategy".

The Australian Government has developed a draft Early Years Strategy 2024-2034, in recognition of the vital importance of the first five years of every child's life.

This survey asks you about key parts of the Early Years Strategy, including the vision, outcomes, priorities and principles. Your views will help shape the final Early Years Strategy.

The draft Early Years Strategy was developed following consultation between January and August 2023. The consultation report can be found on the [DSS website](#).

We are interested in hearing from all community members, including parents, grandparents, carers and family members. We are also interested in hearing from service providers, peak organisations and educational institutions as well as First Nations peoples, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse community members, people living in rural and remote areas, and people from the LGBTIQ+ community.

The Early Years Strategy will be an overarching 10-year document. It will be implemented through Action Plans and will be supported by an Outcomes Framework to measure its progress and effectiveness. Action Plans will be developed after the Early Years Strategy is finalised.

More information can be found here: [Early Years Strategy](#).

There are 10 questions on the draft Strategy followed by optional demographic questions. This survey should take around 10 minutes to complete.

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## VISION

The draft Early Years Strategy vision is **"All children in Australia thrive in their early years. They reach their full potential, nurtured by empowered and connected families, who in turn are supported by strong communities."**

In the Early Years Strategy, the early years includes children from pre-birth to 5 years.

### 1. Does the vision reflect a strong aspiration for children in the early years?

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither disagree or agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

<b>2. How important is it to you that the vision includes a reference to:</b>	Not at all important	Slightly important	Neutral	Important	Very important
a) children thriving?					
b) children reaching their full potential?					
c) the role of families?					
d) the role of communities?					

## OUTCOMES

The draft Early Years Strategy has 8 proposed outcomes (outlined below) that describe what success looks like in the early years. Achieving the outcomes will help achieve the vision.

The draft Early Years Strategy recognises that children grow and develop in the context of their families, communities and society and that everyone has a role to play in achieving these outcomes.

Growing strong and happy children requires the efforts of all those involved in the early years including parents, families and caregivers, communities, all tiers of government, the service sector and the philanthropic sector.

For the Australian Government, the outcomes focus our efforts on the things that we have heard are important and signal to other stakeholders what we are aiming to achieve in the early years.

<b>3. How important is it that the outcomes in the Early Years Strategy include:</b>	Not important	Slightly important	Neutral	Important	Very important
a) Children are nurtured and safe					
b) Children are socially, emotionally and physically healthy					
c) Children are learning					
d) Children have strong identities and connections to culture					
e) Children have opportunities to play and imagine					
f) Material basics are met					
g) Families are empowered, connected and supported					
h) Communities are strong and inclusive places for children and their parents or carers to live, grow, play and connect					

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles inform how the Australian Government will work to support children and families in the early years.

<b>4. Do you agree that the 5 guiding principles (outlined below) align with the Australian Government's goal of supporting children and families in the early years?</b>	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
a) Child and family centred					
b) Strengths-based					
c) Respect for families and the community					
d) Equitable, inclusive and respectful of diversity					
e) Evidence informed					

## PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS

The Australian Government will direct efforts to achieve the vision and outcomes through priority focus areas. Actions to deliver each priority focus area will be outlined in Action Plans.

<b>5. How important are each of the following priority focus areas?</b>	Not important	Slightly important	Neutral	Important	Very important
a) Value the Early Years					
b) Empower parents					
c) Support and work with communities					
d) Strengthen accountability and coordination					

**GENERAL**

The following questions ask how strongly you agree with general statements around the draft Early Years Strategy.

**6. The draft Early Years Strategy includes a clear explanation of what matters most to improve early childhood outcomes.**

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither disagree or agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
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**7. The draft Early Years Strategy is inclusive and respectful of the diversity of all children.**

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither disagree or agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
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**8. I found the Strategy easy to understand.**

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither disagree or agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
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Any comments? (Free text – up to 100 words/500 characters)

**9. What do you like about the draft Early Years Strategy?** (Free text – up to 100 words/500 characters)

**10. What would you change about the draft Early Years Strategy?** (Free text – up to 100 words/500 characters)

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**Questions about you (optional)**

**Q11. What is your age?**

- 15 – 24
- 25 – 34
- 35 – 44
- 45 – 54
- 55 – 64
- 65 – 74
- 75 +
- Prefer not to say

**Q12. How do you describe your gender?**

- Male
- Female
- Other (*Please specify*)
- Prefer not to say

**Q13. Are you...? (*Select all that apply*)**

- A pregnant or expectant parent
- A parent or carer of child/ren who is 0-2 years
- A parent or carer of child/ren who is 3-5 years
- A parent or carer of child/ren who is 6-15 years
- A parent or carer of an older child/ren (16 and over)
- A grandparent, aunty, uncle or other family member of children
- Other (*Please specify*)
- Prefer not to say

**Q14. Are you...? (*Select all that apply*)**

- From a government organisation
- From a not-for-profit organisation
- From a for-profit organisation
- From a University or other educational institution
- From the early years sector
- Other (*Please specify*)
- Prefer not to say

**Q15. What is your postcode?**

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**Q16. Do you identify as....? (Select all that apply)**

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander / First Nation person
- Culturally and linguistically diverse
- A person with disability
- LGBTIQ+

**Q17. What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

*Please select only one answer.*

- Postgraduate degree
- Graduate diploma/certificate
- Bachelor Degree (including honours)
- Advanced diploma/diploma
- Certificate III/IV (including trade certificate)
- Secondary Education – Years 10 and above
- Secondary Education – Years 9 and below
- Primary Education – Year 6 or below
- Never attended school
- Prefer not to say

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