

# TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT



# THRIVE BY FIVE

# LEGISLATION NEEDED TO HELP EVERY CHILD START BETTER

All Australian children deserve the best start in life and it's up to us to make that happen.

The National Early Years Summit in Canberra on 17 February must be bold.

Overwhelming evidence shows the first five years of a child's life can set them up for lifelong learning and resilience or disadvantages.

The Summit must commit to a new guarantee for every Australian child, bound by legislation and operationalised by a new Commonwealth and State early childhood body.

This guarantee should have universally accessible, high quality early childhood education and care as its backbone.

It must ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families have access to community controlled, culturally appropriate services.

And it must ensure every family in Australia has access to:

- infant and maternal health care;
- comprehensive family support, including playgroups and inclusive community-based disability support; and
- at least two years of preschool.

We will only get these outcomes for children with a highly skilled and well paid workforce.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, we urge you to be bold and lay the foundations for a new approach to the early years.

**SIGN OUR OPEN LETTER.**



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