



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

7 December 2006

It comes as no surprise that assistance for disadvantaged parents and their kids in preschool years will produce substantial savings in the long term. The seven year evaluation of the Pathways to Prevention Project reinforces US data which shows that investment in intensive, specialist programs for preschool children reduces expenditure on welfare, remedial education and criminal justice (*Catch them early and save buckets, Sydney Morning Herald, 7/12/06*)

The Every Kid Campaign, run by a coalition of seven key community agencies who have expertise in different areas of social policy calls upon all candidates in the upcoming NSW State Election to improve our kids' futures in three easy ways: invest in pre-school education to guarantee two days a week early learning for two years before school so that our kids are set up to learn for life; invest in Child and Family Centres in disadvantaged areas so that we can combine quality early education and care, home visiting, parent education and health screening services for kids who currently miss out; and invest in a network of respite care services for children at risk so that we can prevent abuse and support strong and stable families.

Children and young people deserve a chance to thrive. The research tells us that we can make it happen in NSW.

Michelle Burrell, Acting Director, NSW Council of Social Service

Jane Woodruff, CEO, UnitingCare Burnside

Andrew McCallum, CEO, Association of Childrens Welfare Agencies

Belinda Epstein-Frisch, Spokesperson, Family Advocacy

Sue Richards, CEO, NSW Family Services, Inc

Craig Johnston, Spokesperson, Shelter NSW

Steve Larkins, Board Member, Aboriginal Child Family Community Care State Secretariat

Working together to make NSW a place for every child & young person to thrive www.everykid.net

