



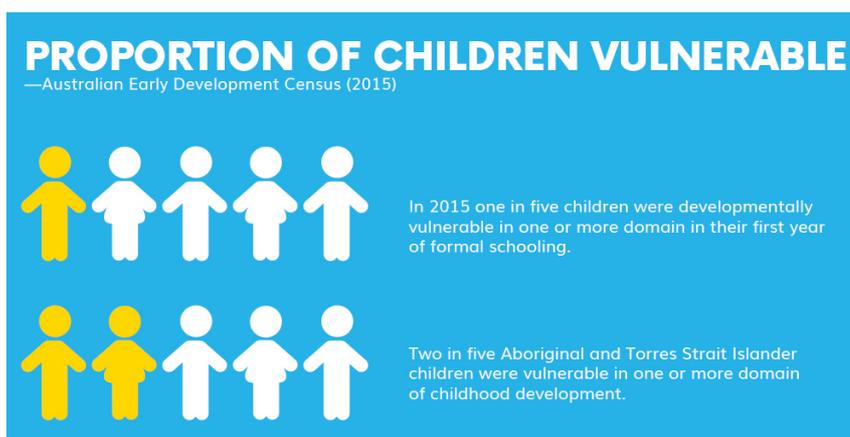
Early Learning **EVERYONE BENEFITS**

Quality early learning for our children creates a quality future for Australia

"Quality early learning and care play a vital role in the development of our children and sets the best foundation for the future of our children and our nation." The Hon Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO, 6 May 2016

Supporting children under five to access quality early learning for at least two days per week is one of the most effective ways to improve education outcomes, reduce long-term government spending and increase Australia's future prosperity.

We have a serious problem. By the time Australian children start school, one in five is vulnerable in their social, emotional or cognitive development, according to the Australian Early Development Census. That rate is double for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander childrenⁱ. We know that children who start behind their peers often fail to catch up.



We can fix this.

Studies show that children who attend a high quality early childhood program in the year before school are up to 40 percent ahead of their peers by the time they reach year three in primary school.ⁱⁱ

Yet Australia is in the bottom third of OECD countries for enrolment of three year olds in early childhood education.ⁱⁱⁱ

The first five years matter for children's development and can unleash a lifetime of potential

- by age 3 – 80% of a child's brain growth has occurred
- By age 4 - children from lower socio-economic and educational backgrounds will hear 19 million fewer words than children with more educated parents
- by age 5, a child's vocabulary will predict their educational success across their lifespan.

All children benefit from early learning, and vulnerable children benefit the most. It improves educational outcomes, prevents learning difficulties, improves socialisation and address emotional and behavioural problems. This provides children with a foundation that sets them up for life.

Early Learning Everyone Benefits is a national collaborative campaign to increase community understanding of the benefits of quality early learning – improved wellbeing for children and families; creating future prosperity.

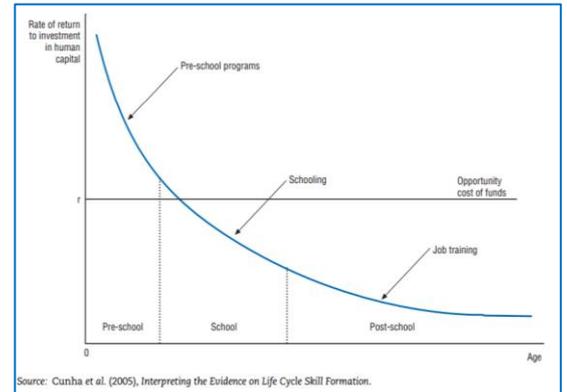
How Everyone Benefits

Children who get a good start to their education can develop the expertise and skills to become productive members of the workforce and contribute to society.

The foundation of many skills needed for 21st-century jobs is established in the earliest years.

It's cost effective - Nobel Laureate economist James Heckman's calculated that there is a 7% to 10% per year return on investment for children who received pre-school education in a US study.

His compelling graph shows that investing in early learning provides the highest rate of return. It is more effective and efficient than investing in human capital later in life.



Improved outcomes for children flow on to huge economic and social benefits for all of us. A [PWC report](#) released in 2015 found that the benefits to GDP from children participating in quality early learning stood at more than \$10 billion cumulative to 2050. Additionally, the benefits of increased participation of vulnerable children are estimated to be \$13.3 billion cumulative to 2050.^{iv}

Join and find out more:
www.everyonebenefits.org.au

Partners



Supporters



ⁱ Australian Early Development Census 2015, <https://www.aedc.gov.au/about-the-aedc/aedc-news/article/2016/03/08/2015-summary-findings>

ⁱⁱ *Early Bird Catches the Worm: The Causal Impact of Pre-school Participation and Teacher Qualifications on Year 3 NAPLAN Cognitive Tests*, Melbourne Inst D. Warren and J. Haisken-DeNew http://melbourneinstitute.com/downloads/conferences/LEW2013/LEW2013_papers/WarrenDiana_LEW2013.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ *Education at a Glance 2015: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris. p. 322.DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eaq-2015-en>

^{iv} *Putting a value on early childhood education and care in Australia*, Price Waterhouse Cooper, J. van Smeedijk <http://www.pwc.com.au/publications/early-childhood-education.html>