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**REPORT: New report sheds light on community response to 'social service' overhaul**

Youth Action, Fams and Local Community Service Association (LCSA) have released a new report today calling on the NSW Government to redefine the role of prevention and early intervention across the service system.

The report, *The Case for an Effective Prevention and Early Intervention Approach*, brings together the expertise of three peaks with deep roots in the child, youth and community sector to urge the government to be clear on what counts as prevention and early intervention.

Katie Acheson, Chief Executive Officer of Youth Action said "Prevention and early intervention is too often applied to services too far down the intervention continuum. We need a shared understanding of prevention to ensure our communities get the support they need to thrive. This report begins that conversation"

The report comes shortly after the NSW Government released *Forecasting Future Outcomes* data prompting an overhaul of the social services sector.

With a promise to channel investment to early intervention measures through a newly established government agency, supporting effective and genuine prevention and early intervention is more important than ever.

"We have the opportunity to stop devastating social issues right at the start. We're calling on the Minister to work with community representatives and to make sure new investment is not the same old approach" Ms Acheson said.



Can Yasmut, Executive Officer of the Local Community Service Association said “An important part is getting the definition right. Prevention is about preventing issues from arising in the first place. Investing in proper prevention is a proven way to ensure better outcomes for vulnerable people”

Fams CEO, Julie Hourigan-Ruse said the report hopes to shift the focus from policy-makers towards true early intervention.

“Vulnerable children are kept safe by quality services, delivered by a sector, which helps kids when and where they need it. It is clear that we need a greater focus on early intervention. Fams acknowledges the reform activity currently underway but remains concerned that the system will still not respond to vulnerable children early enough to help change their trajectory”, Hourigan Ruse said.

View the full paper here:

[The case for an effective prevention and early intervention approach](#)

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