



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*Tuesday, 7 May 2024*

### **GOVERNMENT'S EARLY YEARS STRATEGY A CRUCIAL STEP TO ENSURING KIDS GET THE BEST START IN LIFE**

**The release of the Albanese Labor Government's Early Years Strategy is an essential move towards ensuring that children in New South Wales grow up in supportive environments with equal opportunity to thrive.**

Fams, the NSW peak body for family and children's services, welcomes the strategy, reiterating the importance of early intervention and prevention in keeping children in NSW safe.

"Experiences during the first 2000 days have deep and long-lasting effects on schooling and employment, lifelong health and risk of substance abuse and criminal behaviour," said Fams CEO, Susan Watson.

"The adoption of an integrated, holistic strategy that addresses the siloes across children's services is key to enhancing children's safety, health, wellbeing, and development.

**"I'm glad to see recognition in the strategy of the integral role that non-government organisations play in providing support. The sector is highly professional and qualified and achieving incredible outcomes despite a lack of resources."**

Fams submitted a [set of recommendations](#) last year when a draft of the strategy was released for feedback.

"We're pleased to see that some of our recommendations have been implemented into the strategy, including collaboration between levels of government, and a focus on data and reporting to support accountability.

**"Our key recommendation will continue to be increased funding across early intervention and prevention services. The sector needs additional resources to keep more families safe and together."**

The early intervention and prevention sector has not seen a funding increase in over 10 years, despite the rising costs and increased demands.

**"We must rebalance the system, with higher prioritisation for early intervention funding. We need to stop kids from reaching crisis point," Ms Watson said.**

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## **About Fams**

Fams is the NSW peak body that represents the child protection NGO early intervention and prevention sector. We advocate for improved policies for children, families, communities, and services. Fams is committed to:

- Children and families receiving the support they need
- Evidence-informed and outcomes-based service delivery
- Government and sector accountability
- Influencing policy