



nsw commission for  
children & young people



Commission for  
**Children and Young People**  
Queensland Government

## MEDIA RELEASE

9 March 2004

### A great head start for 'growing-up' Australians

The community is being encouraged to give Australia's children a 'Head Start' in life following today's release of a new report..

*A Head Start for Australia: An Early Years Framework* sets out nine key areas of young children's lives where governments, agencies, business, parents and others can take action to provide significant long term benefits for all Australians.

Gillian Calvert, NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People, said there has been lot of talk from the nation's leaders recently about the importance of the early years.

"This framework sets out what needs to be done to turn that rhetoric into reality," she said

The report is based on local and international research showing how children's early experiences can have a profound, lifelong impact on their health, learning and social development, success in school and participation in the workforce and their communities.

Robin Sullivan, Commissioner for Children and Young People (Qld), said the research shows that investing in the early years helps families to raise children so they get a good start in life.

"This helps prevent problems that are more costly for society to deal with later in life," Dr Sullivan said.

"Investing in the early years impacts profoundly on children's lives, and delivers the greatest rewards. The framework is an unprecedented opportunity to work together to help shape a future in which all Australians can benefit from a 'head start'," she said.

Professor Graham Vimpani, a member of NIFTeY and Head of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Newcastle agrees that the Early Years framework is of particular relevance given the demographic trends facing Australia in the next few decades.

"Support in the early years is an issue that affects not only today's children, but the quality of Australian society in the years ahead," he said.

*A Head Start for Australia: An Early Years Framework* has been jointly developed by the NSW Commission for Children and Young People, the Commission for Children and Young People (Qld) and the National Investment for the Early Years (NIFTeY).

A full copy of the report and a summary can be downloaded from [www.kids.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au) and [www.childcomm.qld.gov.au](http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au) and [www.niftey.cyh.com](http://www.niftey.cyh.com)

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