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## Mallee Family Care welcomes new Early Years Strategy

Better coordination and integration between early childhood education, health, and social systems to identify challenges and risk factors within families is the key to improving outcomes in early childhood, according to Mallee Family Care (MFC), a leading not-for-profit community service organisation based in the Mallee region of Victoria.

MFC has welcomed the federal government's [Early Years Strategy 2024-2034](#), which sets a crucial roadmap for collective efforts to nurture young children, supported by connected families and strong communities.

Earlier this year, Mallee Family Care provided input to help shape the strategy and ensure that it would include place-based approaches that enable local solutions to local challenges. MFC is pleased that several of these recommendations are reflected in the final version of the strategy.

Mallee Family Care CEO Teresa Jayet said the release of the Early Years Strategy marks a significant milestone in our efforts to support families and children.

"We commend the government for prioritising early childhood development and recognise the potential of this strategy to create positive, long-term impacts in our community," Ms Jayet said.

"MFC particularly welcomes the strategy's acknowledgment of the current fragmentation in existing services.

"Effective collaboration is essential for tackling the complex needs of families in the Mallee region. We are pleased to see the government's commitment to fostering partnerships between agencies, which if implemented successfully, will enhance the delivery of services and support to our community."

Addressing the underlying drivers for inequitable outcomes during early childhood, like housing and poverty, is equally crucial for creating opportunities for all children to thrive. MFC welcomes the recognition of these issues in the final strategy, in response to feedback from MFC and other stakeholders to the initial draft.

"Making sure that families have access to basic necessities, such as food, physical safety and housing, is fundamental to promoting healthy childhood development," Ms Jayet said.



### Media enquiries

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“We are encouraged to see that the government recognises the importance of addressing these factors in the Early Years Strategy, and we remain committed to supporting initiatives that increase equity and sustainability in these areas.”

As implementation of the Early Years Strategy moves ahead, Mallee Family Care urges the government to take a collaborative approach that actively involves the community service sector.

“MFC stands ready to work alongside government agencies to develop and implement early years solutions that are place-based and in line with community needs. Now more than ever it is essential that we work together to safeguard the success of future generations,” Ms Jayet said.

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