

I am writing to express my concerns around the current *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*, referred to as 'No Jab No Play'. This policy states that:

- an early childhood service must not enrol a child if all immunisation requirements are not met
- a child cannot attend, or continue to attend, an early childhood service if all immunisation requirements are not met

I find it difficult to reconcile this policy with the current aims of the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care, which aims to enquire into:

'How **universal quality preschool programs** for three and four year olds can be delivered in South Australia, including addressing **considerations of accessibility**, affordability, quality and how to **achieve universality** for both age cohorts. Consideration of **universal three-year old preschool should be undertaken with a view to achieving this commencing in 2026.**'

And

'The extent to which South Australian families are supported in the first 1000 days of a child's life, **focused on opportunities to further leverage early childhood education and care to enable equitable and improved outcomes for South Australian children.**'

I cannot see how withholding a quality early childhood education can possibly lead to equitable outcomes for all South Australian children. Children are unable to make their own health care choices, and they should not be denied access to pre-school and quality early education through no fault of their own.

Quality early childhood education and pre-school should be universally accessible. Universal early education and pre-school is an important goal, as is as increased uptake in immunisation for the purpose of public health; however, it is not appropriate to withhold education to increase immunisation rates (and I am curious to see any research supporting the idea that this policy actually does increase immunisation rates).

There is no ethical way to continue to use pre-school and early education as a carrot on a string to motivate parents to immunise their children, especially when it is widely understood and accepted that high quality, universal pre-school and early education in the first 1000 days of life is an important protective factor for ongoing physical and social-emotional health and wellbeing.