



**Mallee Track Health & Community Service**

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To whom it may concern,

Mallee Track Health and Community Service (MTHCS) would like to submit a response to the National Education Evidence Base (draft enquiry report).

MTHCS is a provider of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) spanning 18,000 square kilometres in rural North West Victoria. Our organisation delivers Budget Based Funded Long Day Care and Kindergarten for children eligible in the year before school. We are also an Early Year Manager (formerly known as Kindergarten Cluster Management) for 5 services in our catchment.

We would like to provide the following feedback in relation to recommendation 7.2 and 8.1 which has been put forward in the draft report.

As a provider, MTHCS has been interested in improving outcomes in ECEC and Education in our catchment. As part of our commitment to improving outcomes MTHCS are developing partnerships with schools in our catchment in an effort to align our assessment of children's development and learning. Our experience as a provider is that educational outcomes can be best improved when there is continuity between ECEC and education in assessing children's development. This can be achieved through common assessment tools, shared practice and the application of record keeping and transition of information about children from birth until adulthood through the service system. Within the rural context, this approach is able to be achieved relatively easily – due to the small nature of the cohorts and the bounding of populations usually due to geography. Additionally, the universal nature of service provision which usually sits with a sole provider in rural areas allows for consistency in approach which, logically, will allow for consistency in practice and the application of

any assessment and improvement tool which might be selected for improving outcomes.

In response to the recommendations in the National Education Evidence Base (draft enquiry report), MTHCS has prepared a paper (as attached) which details a potential model for consideration by the commission. This model aims to provide a solution to recommendations 7.2 and 8.1 – what works best to improve school and early childhood education outcomes. Our proposal for a policy response is specific to rural areas where there is potential for market failure. MTHCS is a multipurpose service (MPS) – a model which has been around for 20 years and has addressed improved outcomes in the aged care sector. Our belief as an organisation is that in the rural context, the improvement of educational outcomes can be achieved through the extension of the MPS model across the lifespan, not just aged care.

Thankyou for the opportunity to provide a response to the enquiry.

Kind regards

Lois O'Callaghan  
Director of Community Services