

ARACY Amplified

2024-25





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



ARACY acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands we work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

ARACY treasures the rich and diverse cultures and customs of First Nations people - valued knowledge holders, leaders and partners in creating the conditions for all our children to thrive.

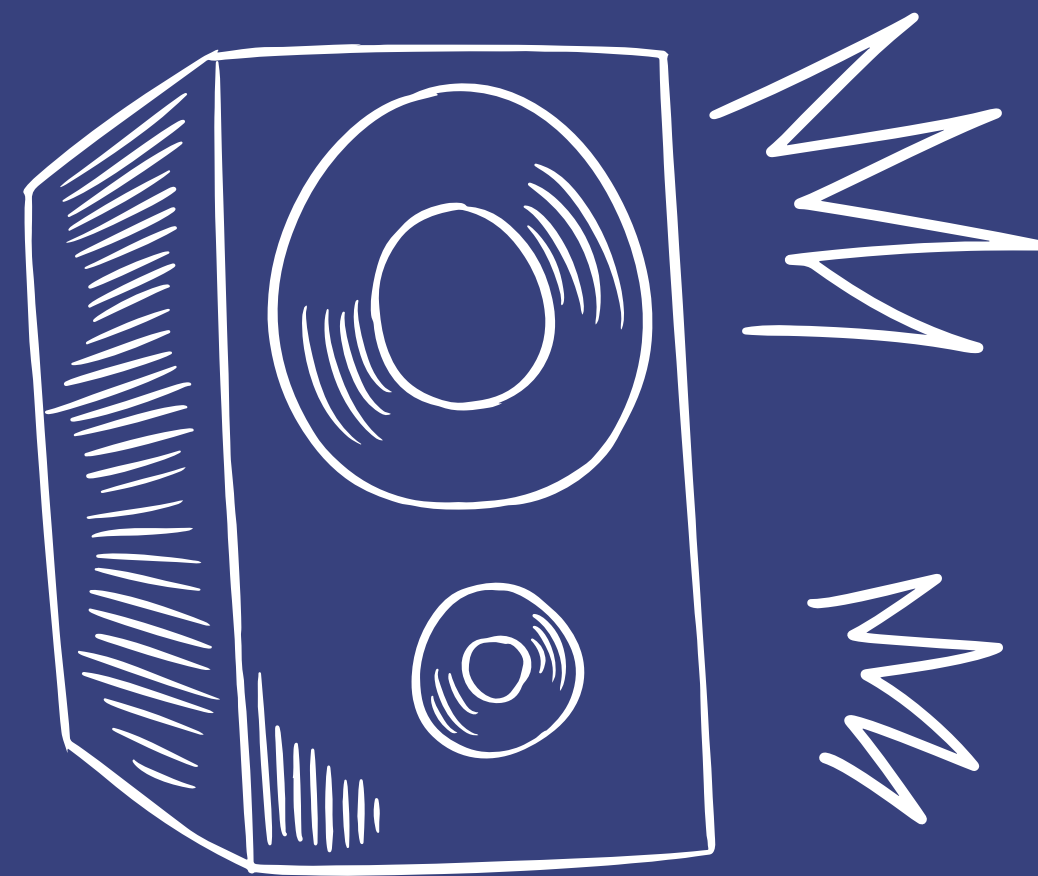
**ARACY champions the best policies
and practices to help the next
generation thrive.**

As a leading health promotion charity,
we use evidence and partnerships to
influence systems to transform the
wellbeing of every child.



ARACY Amplified 2024-25

Our loud and clear agenda to improve the holistic wellbeing of Australia's children and young people.



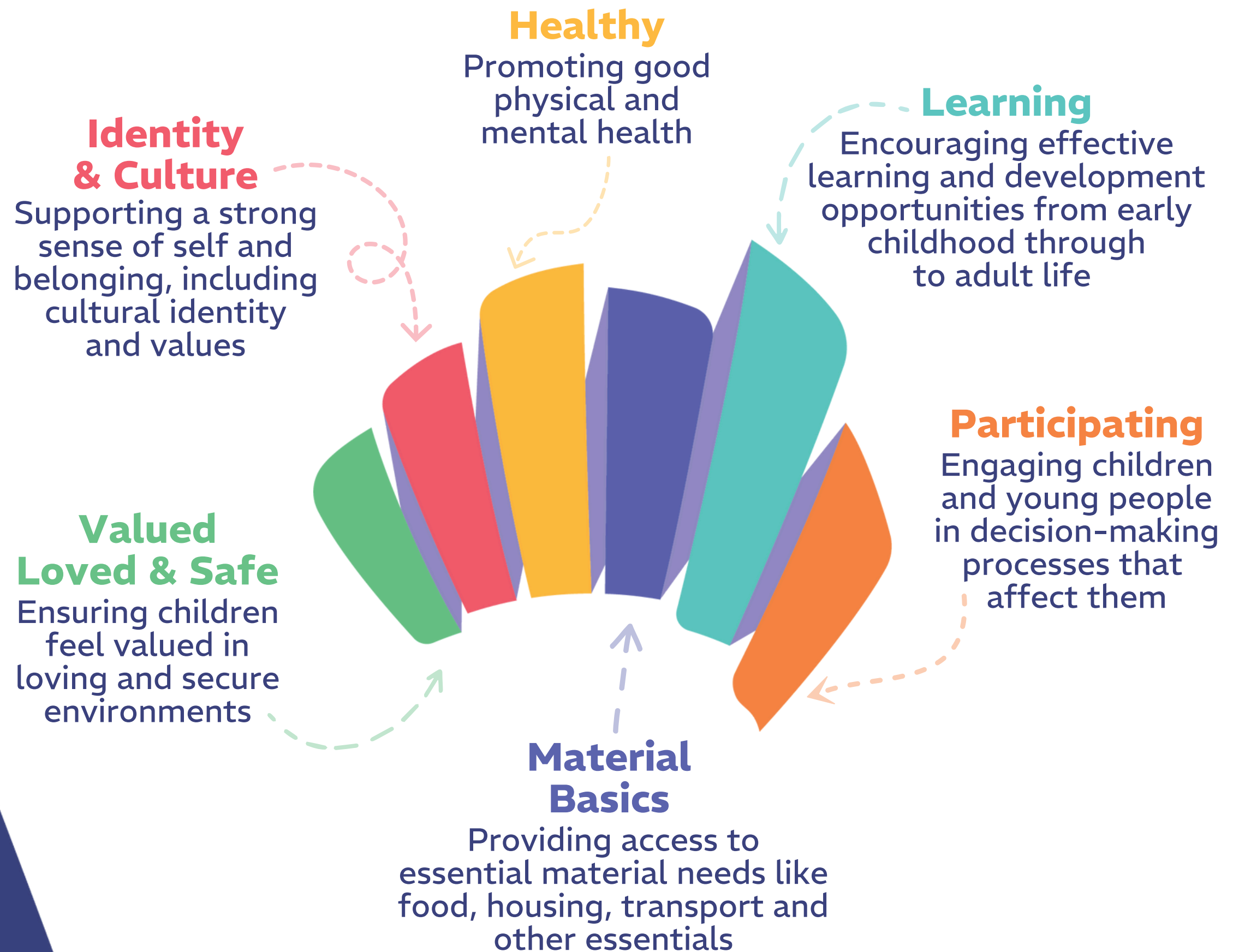
THE NEST

Australia's evidence-based framework developed by ARACY to enhance the wellbeing of children and young people. Launched in 2013 after extensive consultations with over 4,000 children, families, and experts. The Nest is now being used across Australia and around the world.

The Nest aims to provide a comprehensive approach to child and youth wellbeing through six interlinked domains...



every child **thriving**
aracy



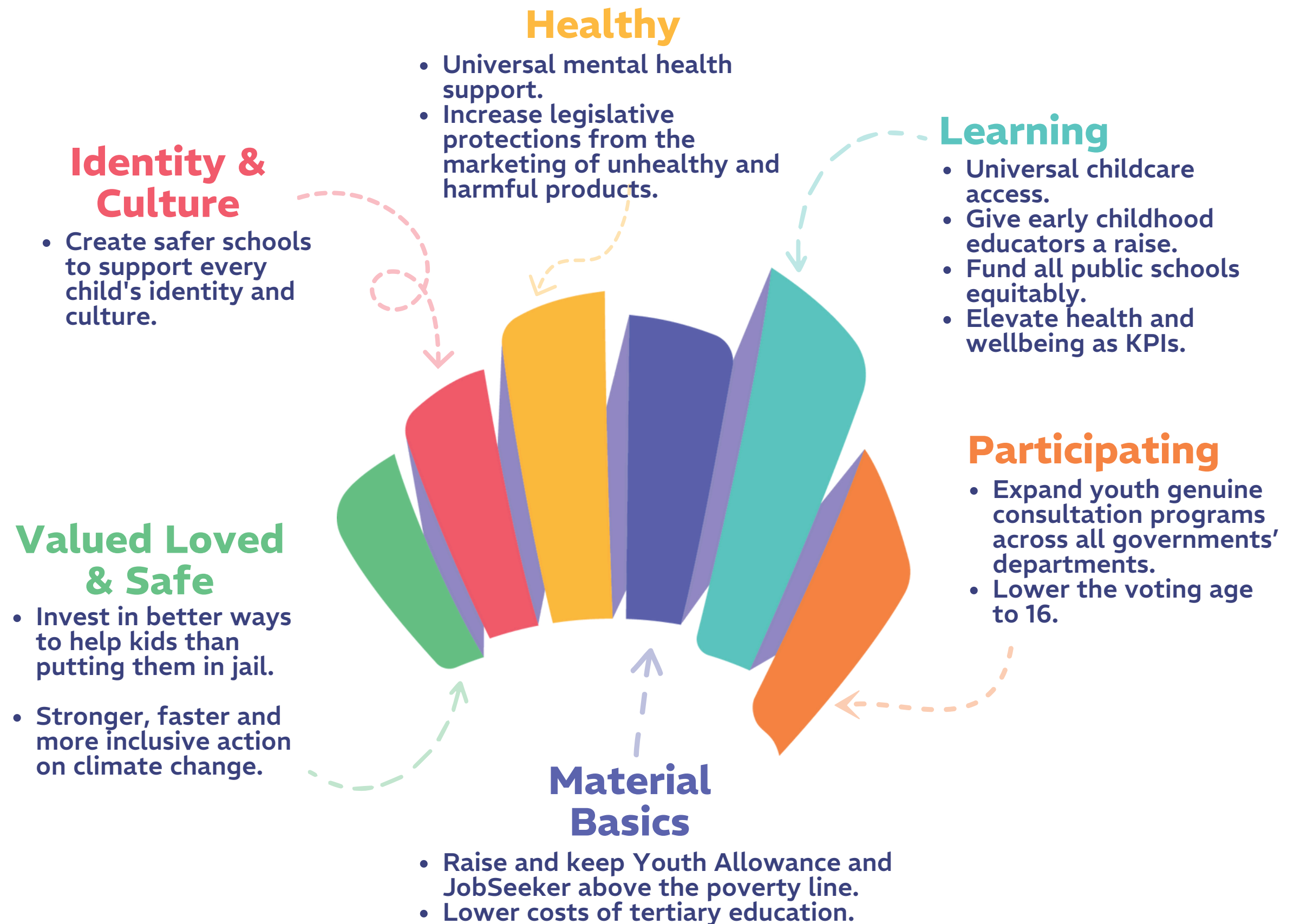
ARACY AMPLIFIED 2024-25

Our loud and clear agenda to improve the holistic wellbeing of Australia's children and young people. Informed by the latest evidence, our expert partners and what young people say they want (Young+Wise Report and Reference Group)



All Domains:

- Invest in an Early Years Strategy – Action Plan
- *Act for Children* including appointment of a Minister for Children
- Appoint a Commissioner for Future Generations



All Domains

Invest in an Early Years Strategy – Action Plan

***Act for Children* including appointment of a Minister for Children**

Appoint a Commissioner for Future Generations



All Domains

Invest in an Early Years Strategy – Action Plan

Problem:

Children's policy, funding, and programs are often siloed, lacking integration and coordination. The Early Years Strategy looks good on paper but cannot be achieved without the necessary resources and support.

Solution:

Federal Government to provide ambitious funding for the Early Years Strategy. Improve coordination with States. This investment will ensure an integrated approach to early childhood development, supporting families and children to learn, grow, and thrive.

ARACY Action:

Continue to work collaboratively with Government Ministers, Departments and sector partners to ensure effective implementation of the Strategy.



All Domains

Act for Children including appointment of a Minister for Children

Problem:

Children and young people lack unified and strong representation in government, leading to fragmented policies and insufficient focus on their rights and wellbeing.

Solution:

Implement a comprehensive four-part package of reforms:

- Enact a National Children's Act to secure children's rights within our legal framework.
- Appoint an advocate in the Cabinet, a Minister for Children to break down Government silos
- Establish a Ministerial Council for Children to unite Federal, State, and Territory Ministers and coordinate efforts across jurisdictions.
- Develop a National Plan for the Wellbeing of Children to achieve tangible results.

ARACY Action:

Work with the National Commissioner for Children and sector partners to create and implement an Act for Children campaign to put children first.



Act For
Children



All Domains

Appoint a Commissioner for Future Generations

Problem:

Children and young people often lack a unified and strong representation in government, leading to fragmented policies and insufficient focus on their rights and wellbeing.

Solution:

Considering the rights and interests of both current and future generations, a Commissioner for Future Generations will keep political and business leaders accountable for the impact of their decisions on future Australian generations. They will ensure our children inherit a world as rich in opportunities as ours.

ARACY Action:

Contribute to the *Intergenerational Fairness Coalition* campaign for a Commissioner for Future Generations



INTERGENERATIONAL
FAIRNESS
COALITION



Valued, Loved & Safe

Invest in better ways to help kids than putting them in jail and fix root problems long before police contact.

Stronger, faster and more inclusive action on Climate Change.



Valued, Loved & Safe

Invest in better ways to help kids than putting them in jail

Problem:

Youth justice policies are overusing incarceration as a last resort tactic across Australian States and Territories. This approach is detrimental, especially for First Nations young people, who are disproportionately affected, reflecting a history of trauma and cultural dispossession. The younger children are when they encounter the justice system, the more likely they are to re-offend.

Solution:

Locking up kids is never the answer, it makes the problem worse. Raising the age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 will make our communities safer in the long term. Focus on proven community support and therapy alternatives. Prevent crime by fixing issues in social services, health, and education systems early on.

ARACY Action:

Contribute to the *Raise the Age* campaign coalition.



Valued, Loved & Safe

Stronger, faster and more inclusive action on climate change

Problem:

When it comes to climate change, politicians and policy makers still aren't acting in the best interests of young people and future generations. Around the world, 161 countries have recognised that children have the right to a safe and healthy environment (through international agreements or domestic legislation), and Australia isn't one of them. Inaction on climate change risks young people's future, increasing distrust of politicians, disempowerment and disengagement from democracy. Climate change also contributes to eco-anxiety.

Solution:

Expedite the phase-out of government fossil fuel subsidies and provide opportunities for young people to engage in environmental restoration. Create opportunities for young people to co-create and participate in solutions.

ARACY Action:

Continue to amplify Young + Wise voices on climate. Seek opportunities to assist youth-led climate campaigns e.g. **Duty of Care**



Identity & Culture

Create safer schools that support every child and young person's identity and culture.



Identity & Culture

Create safer schools that support every child and young person's identity and culture

Problem:

Racism and lack of cultural safety in education and other systems negatively impact First Nations, LGBTIQ+, and racially marginalised children.

Solution:

Create culturally safe and inclusive education institutions and other systems servicing children, celebrating diversity and ensuring a stress-free experience for all. Invest in policies to actively eliminate racism from education and other systems that are meant to serve and nurture children and young people.

ARACY Action:

Seek opportunities to amplify marginalised voices around ways to improve school safety.



Healthy

Universal mental health support.

Increase protection from the marketing of unhealthy and harmful products.



Healthy

Universal mental health support for 8-25 year olds

Problem:

Many children and young people in Australia lack access to essential mental health support, impacting their wellbeing and future potential. Mental Health care is expensive where bulk-billing Headspace Centres aren't accessible. Currently, 4-6 month wait times are prolonging our mental health crises. In Australia, half of all adult mental health challenges emerge before the age of 14 yet Headspace only starts to become accessible at 12 years of age.

Solution:

Make mental health support universally free and accessible, prioritising face-to-face sessions when possible and preferred. Provide high-quality online support where necessary. Make Headspace accessible for children as young as 8. Empower children and young people with the skills to manage and maintain their mental health and wellbeing.

ARACY Action:

Campaign with *Future Healthy Countdown 2030* and amplify mental Health partners such as Orygen and Prevention United



Healthy

Increase protection from the marketing of unhealthy and harmful products

Problem:

Children and young people under 18 are increasingly targeted by harmful product marketing, affecting their physical and mental health. Evidence suggests this has a damaging knock-on effect e.g. Men's Violence Against Women, Gambling Addiction

Solution:

Legislate greater protection of children from the marketing of harmful products like alcohol, gambling (including sports betting), pornography, vaping, and other inappropriate content e.g. on social media platforms.

ARACY Action:

Campaign with *Future Healthy Countdown 2030* and other opportunities e.g. with Royal College of ANZ Physicians on the *Kids Catch Up* campaign.



Material Basics

Raise and keep Youth Allowance and JobSeeker above the poverty line.

Lower costs of Tertiary Education.



Material Basics

Raise and keep Youth Allowance and JobSeeker above the poverty line

Problem:

The current low rate of income support forces families to make heartbreaking decisions between essentials like food and medicine. This impacts children and young people directly, as parents struggle to provide the material basics for their children. Young people on income support also face challenges in affording education and living independently, especially with rents up by about 18% and food by 9% in the last year.

Solution:

To create a more equal and resilient community, we propose raising the rate of JobSeeker and other income support payments to at least \$80 a day. This will ensure that parents can provide for their children and young people can afford to participate in education.

ARACY Action:

Campaign with ACOSS and UNSW led *Poverty and Inequality Project* coalition.

RESEARCH AND INSIGHTS INTO

Poverty

& Inequality

IN AUSTRALIA



Material Basics

Lower costs of tertiary education

Problem:

The current low rate of income support forces families to make heartbreaking decisions between essentials like food and medicine. This impacts children and young people directly, as parents struggle to provide the material basics for their children. Young people on income support also face challenges in affording education and living independently, especially with rents up by about 18% and food by 9% in the last year.

Solution:

Reduce tuition fees and lower student loans to make higher education more affordable. Increase the supply and affordability of student housing to support students in their educational pursuits. This investment will help future-proof Australia by creating a skilled, knowledgeable, and innovative workforce ready to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.

ARACY Action:

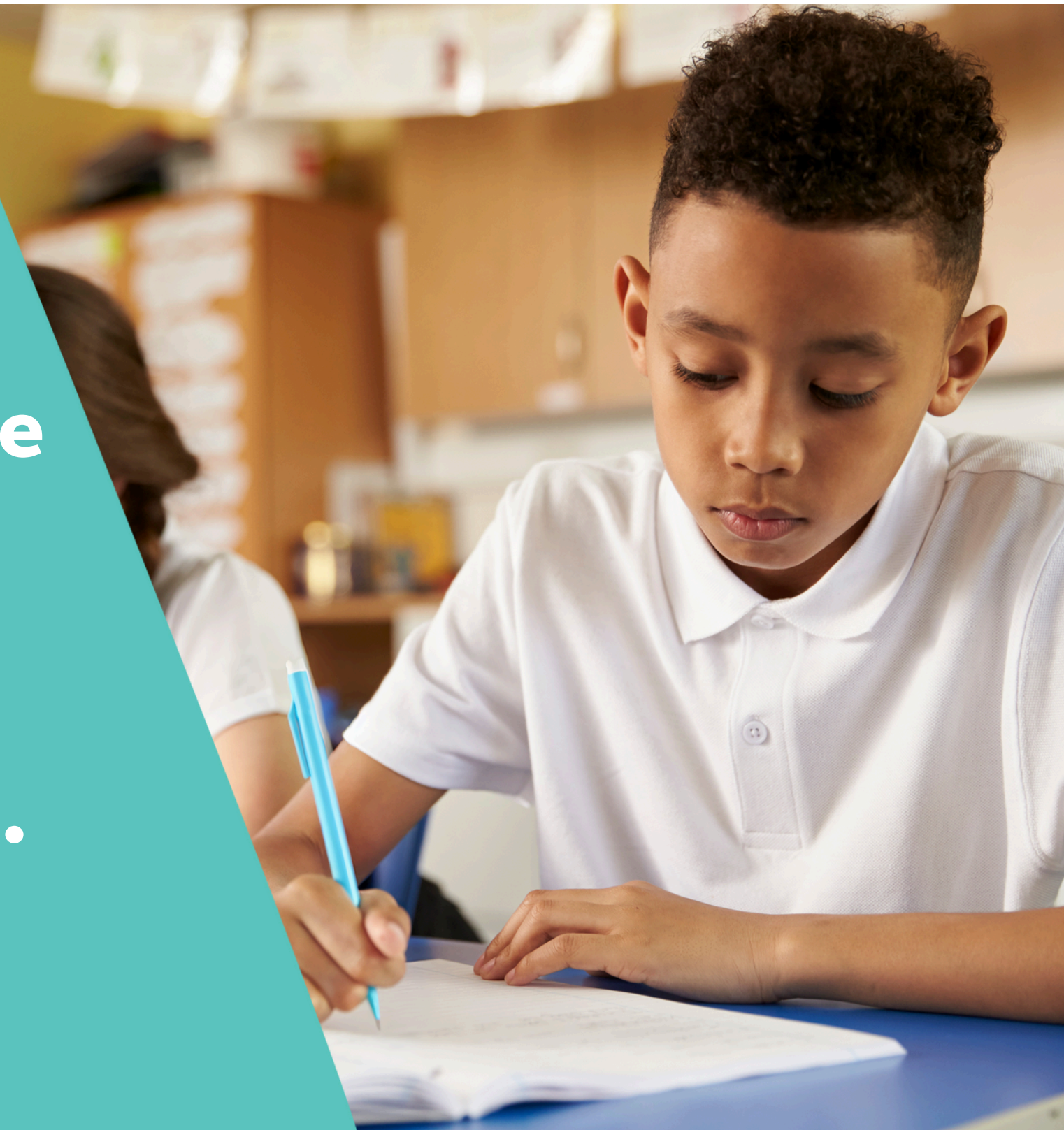
Amplify our Young + Wise voices and seek opportunities to collaborate with partners like the Youth Affairs Council of Australia



Learning

Abolish Child Care Activity Test for universal early learning and care. Give Early Childhood Educators a raise.

**Fund all public schools equitably.
Elevate health and wellbeing as KPIs.**



Learning

Universal early learning and care access. Give early childhood educators a raise.

Problem:

The cost of early learning and care in Australia has risen faster than housing or electricity, limiting access and undervaluing early childhood educators. There are “childcare deserts” around Australia in-part due to the fact Early Childhood Educators are chronically underpaid and undervalued.

Solution:

This investment will improve early learning outcomes, increase workforce participation for women, and contribute to long-term productivity gains. Quickly follow through on the 2024/25 Budget Commitment to fund a wage increase for Early Childhood Educators.

ARACY Action:

Campaign with the *Thrive By Five* coalition



**THRIVE
BY FIVE**



Learning

Fund all public schools equitably. Elevate health and wellbeing as KPIs.

Problem:

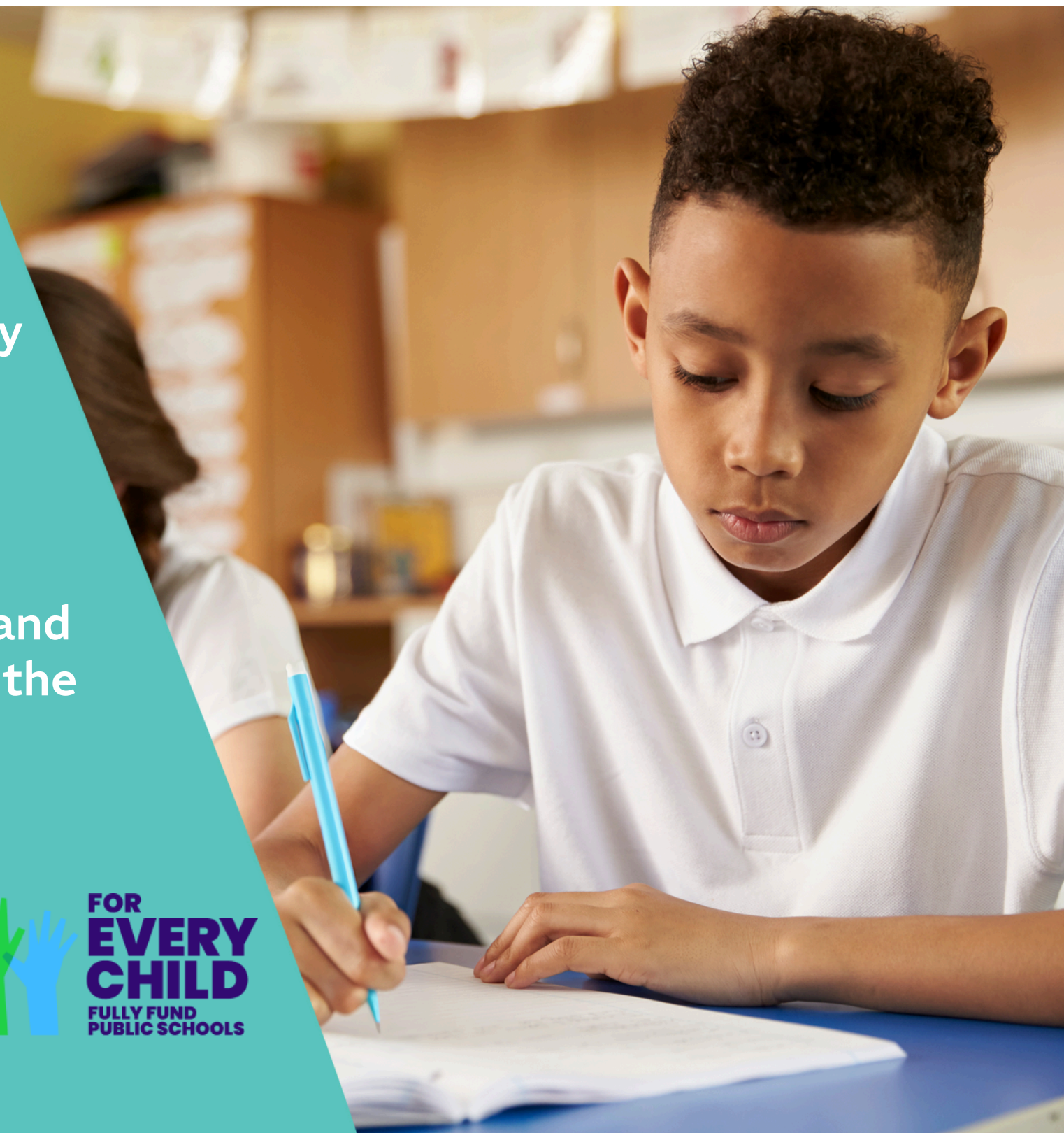
Only 1.3 % of public schools are at the minimum funding benchmark agreed to by governments. Many children in Australia, especially the socioeconomically disadvantaged, are not receiving the necessary support for their health, wellbeing, and learning, leading to detrimental social and economic consequences.

Solution:

Shift the educational focus to equally prioritise learning, wellbeing, and health by adopting a whole child and whole school approach. As per the Reinventing Schools Discussion Paper by MCRI et al.

ARACY Action:

Amplify the *For Every Child* campaign and seek opportunities to advocate the Reinventing Schools paper's recommendations



Participating

**Expand genuine youth
consultation programs
across government
departments.**

Lower the voting age to 16.



Participating

Expand genuine youth consultation programs across all governments' departments.

Problem:

Youth voices are underrepresented in policy-making, leading to decisions that overlook their needs and contributing to disenfranchisement with traditional institutions.

Solution:

Federal and State Ministers for Youth, fund and lead an expansion of genuine youth consultation programs across all governments' departments. Ensure the advice is transparent through regular publishing to make Government accountable. Coordinate through Ministerial Councils for Children and Young People.

ARACY Action:

Regularly survey and amplify opinions of our Young +Wise panel. Help boost AYAC and other youth led organisations' messages.



Participating

Lower the voting age to 16

Problem:

Young people, particularly from under-represented communities, have limited power in decision-making processes, leading to policies that often overlook their needs and concerns.

Solution:

Amend the Electoral Act to reduce the compulsory federal voting age to 16 years. This change will empower young Australians to engage in the democratic process, fostering the development of policies that address their specific needs and consider long-term sustainability and intergenerational outcomes.

ARACY Action:

Regularly survey and amplify opinions of our Young +Wise panel. Help boost AYAC and other youth led organisations' messages.

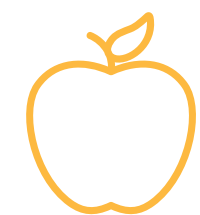


ARACY AMPLIFIED 2024-25

ARACY campaigning and other advocacy work will turn up the volume on these policy calls across all domains of The Nest. We'll ensure every aspect of children's and young people's environment is perfectly tuned to support their thriving development.



All Domains



Healthy



Material Basics



Learning



Valued Loved
and Safe



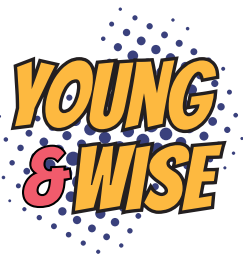
Identity and Culture



Participating



INTERGENERATIONAL
FAIRNESS
COALITION



RESEARCH AND INSIGHTS INTO

Poverty

& Inequality

IN AUSTRALIA



THRIVE
BY FIVE



#Raise
The Age



ARACY'S AMPLIFIED BEAT



every child thriving
aracy

MAY	FEDERAL BUDGET ANALYSIS
JUNE	ARACY POLICY & ADVOCACY PRIORITIES REVIEW
JULY	ANNUAL ARACY AMPLIFY PUBLISHED
NOV	BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

Questions? Feedback? Contact:
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