

**ADVOCATING FOR REFORM** OF THE EARLY **CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMEN** T (ECD) SYSTEM IN **AUSTRALIA** 



# EVERY CHILD WILL THRIVE BY FIVE

#### Children learn right from the start

#### We want:

- Parents that are supported to make it happen
- A community that makes places for it
- A society that understands and values this

#### We will do this by:

- Putting information about how children learn in the hands of parents
- Showing what a new system could do
- Building a new system of early learning







# Mutually Reinforcing Pillars

Parent Empowerme nt

Empower & equip parents,

Advocacy for Early Childhood Development systems change

Demonstrate
Local ECD systems
change

Inform and
Transform

ECD Systems

### THE THRIVE BY FIVE STORY

The history of Thrive by Five

The motivations behind Thrive by Five

Investment into a 'new kid on the block'





# EVIDENCE AS CONTENT TO APPLY POLITICAL PRESSURE (NOT JUST TO

INFORM

How Australia can invest in children and return more

A new look at the \$15b cost of late action





#### **IMPACT**

# AND 1000 VITAL DAYS

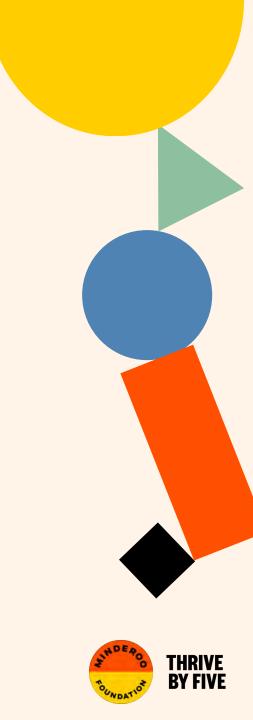
EXCLUSIVE: A REVOLUTION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING IS BREWING WHICH COULD DRIVE THE CREATION OF A FREE, NATIONAL PRESCHOOL SYSTEM FOR AUSTRALIAN INFANTS AND TODDLERS, REPORTS COLIN JAMES

The Daily Telegraph Saturday 25th February 2023



# WHY A CAMPAIGN?

Problematising Early
Childhood Development





# THRIVE BY FIVE SOUGHT TO BREAK THROUGH THE POLITICAL INERTIA

PREMISE 1

PREMISE 2

PREMISE 3

PREMISE 4

PREMISE 5

The Thrive by Five campaign strategy had one goal in mind: to effect policy change nationally that would see a significant uplift in funding for the ECD sector, and to do so by creating a political imperative for action.

The
Campaign's
primary target
should be the
Australian
Government

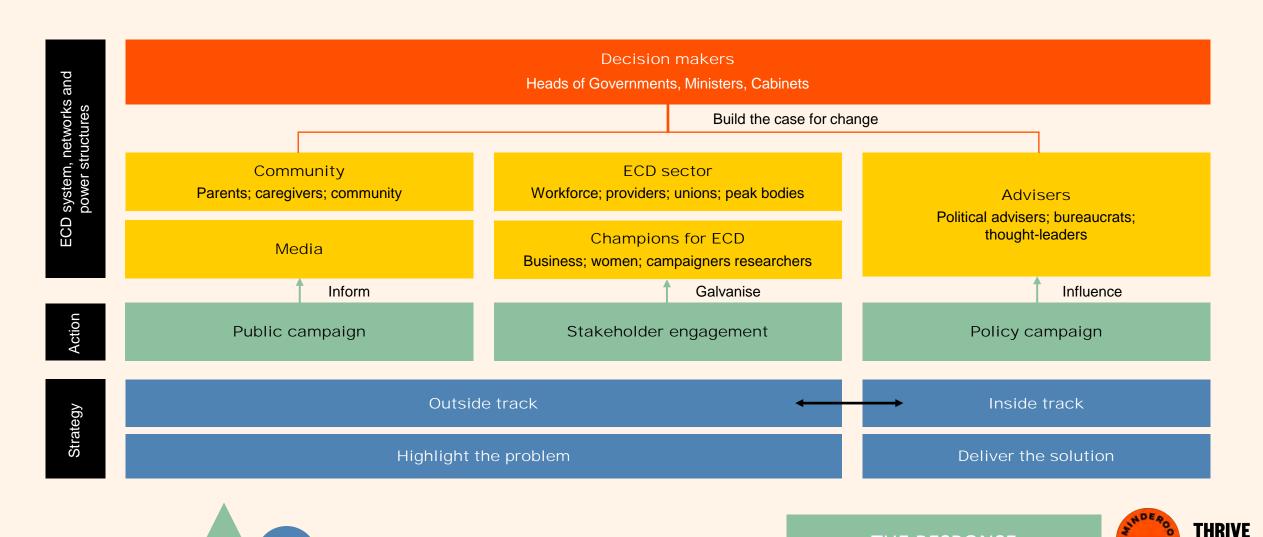
The childcare system would provide the foundation for wider reform A pincer movement creating pressure for change would be necessary Campaign
narratives
aligned to
prevailing
political
debates would
sustain profile
and
momentum

A broad
coalition of
interests would
enable
advocacy
across a wider
front



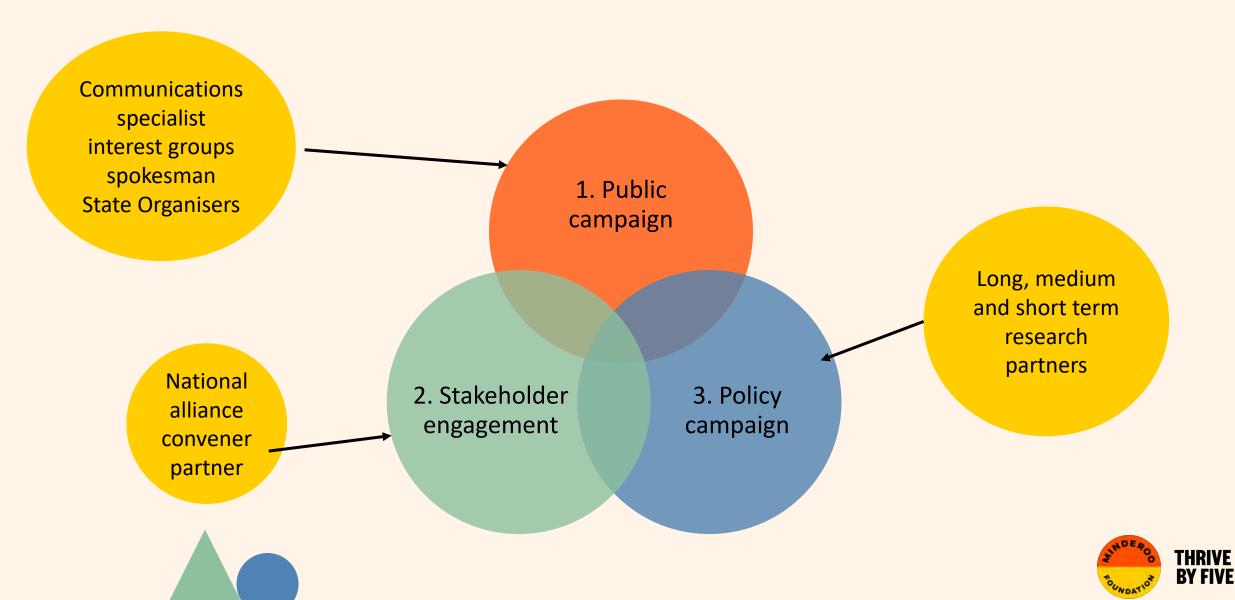


## THE CAMPAIGN ARCHITECTURE



THE RESPONSE

### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



## 1: THE PUBLIC CAMPAIGN

#### MANY VOICES, ONE MESSAGE

Each narrative offered
distinctive framing, but all
led to a common 'solution'
– a universal, affordable,
high quality early learning
and childcare system for
Australia

The narratives were based on the prevailing issues of the day and provided a 'hook' to reach different constituencies.

#### FOUR CAMPAIGN NARRATIVES



The value of early childhood development for children's brain development, and the long-term impact on health, learning, and well-being

#### The cost of living story

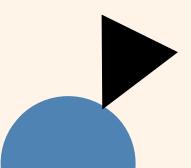
The impact of high fees on families' access to ECEC services, cost of living and the ability to work

#### The gender equity story

The role of ECEC services in giving women with children the opportunity to work, greater choice and economic security

#### The economic story

The overall economic benefits of reform to the nation in terms of workforce participation, gains in productivity, increased GDP and government revenue





# STRATEGY AND TACTICS

- Building on what already exists
- Truly Bi- Partisan One on one meetings
- Spotlight credible people

#### Resources for:

- Targeted research and evidence tied to events
- Geo-targeting of earned/ produced media and advertisements
- Town halls, forums and public events





# WE MADE SURE OUR ISSUE WAS IN

THE **HEADLINES**AT EVERY
OPPORTUNITY







# WE HAD A SOPHISTICATED STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS METHODOLOGY

Digital total Social 11.4m+ Campaign advertising reach Media Videos video reach attendees and average hits Virtual Mainstream 5k+ 844 registrants per month townhalls media 72% 70% Market Early learning support universal believe the reform Research monitor reveals that: access for high quality would be good for the early learning economy

'MANY VOICES, ONE MESSAGE





### 2: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

# CREATING A MOVEMENT

The key tenets have been collaboration, partnership and inclusivity.

Weekly meetings were one way of keeping the ECD 'eco-system' engaged.



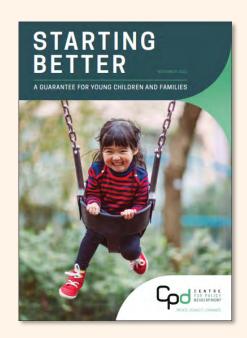


## 3: THE POLICY CAMPAIGN- INSIDE TRACK

#### AN EVIDENCE-BASED SOLUTION

The intention of the parallel policy campaign was to have **sound, tested proposals** ready to present, in response to the problems highlighted in the public debate.

The Campaign **auspiced a process** for policy deep dives and consensus-making, while timely, engaging reports from partners stoked the fires.











### **POLICY WINS**

National Government committed to deliver a National Universal ECD System Inc First ever Early Childhood Minister.

#### \$55 Billion commitment inc:

- \$28 Billion for ECD reform (new)
- \$5 Billion to provide 95 % childcare subsidy for families with 2+ children
- \$8 Billion commitment from the NSW government
- \$9 Billion commitment from the Vic government
- \$1.3 Billion commitment from the QLD government





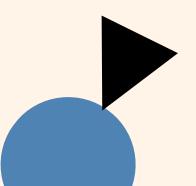
# THE CAMPAIGN HAS ALSO PRODUCED POSITIVE SIDE-EFFECTS

Lifting the morale of ECD professionals

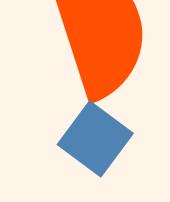
Setting the scene for offshoot policy advocacy

Helping services to see themselves as part of a broader ECD system

Working together to achieve a common purpose





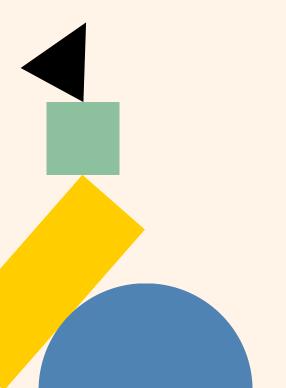


# AND WE WON'T STOP UNTIL WE ACHIEVE OUR GOAL





# THANK YOU



THRIVEBYFIVE.ORG.AU/NEWS/

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THRIVEBYFIVECAM PAIGN

