

Dear Productivity Commission,

Thank you for your interest in our research relating to school age care.

As discussed, please find enclosed out article published 26th July 2023 in JMIR paediatrics and parenting entitled “Supporting children’s social connection and wellbeing in outside of school hours care: A mixed method evaluation of the Connect Promote and Protect Program (CP3)” and the co-design work behind it in a separate attachment (Milton et al. 2021).

School age care, specifically out of school hours care (OSHC), provides a unique opportunity to deliver early-intervention programs to enhance primary-school age children’s social, emotional, physical and cognitive wellbeing, yet such programs in Australia are currently lacking. This research reports on the follow-up mixed methods formative and process evaluation of the co-designed social connection and wellbeing program, called the Connect, Promote and Protect Program (CP3). The research found high acceptability, feasibility of CP3 and shows evidence of significantly improved levels of prosocial behaviours and reduced peer problems.

This research demonstrates how children’s voices can be incorporated into program design, plus it highlights the critical need for more positively geared early intervention and prevention programs that can positively impact children in an accessible and non-stigmatising way.

Best

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