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Local MLA Endorses Sharper Focus On Early Childhood Development

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton has endorsed the initiative announced by Education Minister Liz Constable that the welfare of children in their earliest years will be a major focus of WA education policy.

A review into educational practice in early childhood conducted by Professor Collette Tayler will be the blueprint for further initiatives for early childhood education practices.

"I am very pleased to see that the State Government is focussing on enriching the 'craft' of guiding and teaching children from birth to eight years in recognition of the key role played by early childhood educators to advance young children's learning and development," said Dr Nahan.

"Research shows that children's development in the early years – even before compulsory schooling commences – is the most important factor influencing later education and life outcomes."

"Children make rapid progress in their early years and we have an obligation to children and their families to ensure that we maintain and nurture that momentum. High quality teaching is a significant factor in achieving just that."

Dr Nahan said the State Government will develop a full policy statement on teaching and learning in the early years, incorporating some of Professor Tayler's findings.

"Professor Tayler's review found that early childhood educators wanted more guidance on curriculum and teaching practice in the early years," Dr Nahan said.

"The research statement will provide early childhood teachers with clear guidance about what should be taught, and how to create a balance between teaching and assessment methods best suited to early learning."

"I have a strong track commitment in providing high quality and accessible early childhood education and care for children and their families in the Riverton Electorate."

"These initiatives build on the Premier's recent announcement of the establishment of extended service schools, where parents could access education, community and health services at local school sites."

"One of the most important ways that we can improve early childhood outcomes in our local area is to support our teachers in their work with parents, childcare services and other early childhood professionals."