



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

**OUR
VISION:
EVERY
YOUNG
CHILD IS
THRIVING
AND
LEARNING**

MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday 6 March, 2016

No truth in story about sex education for toddlers

Early Childhood Australia is developing a teaching resource on respectful relations called *Start Early*. It is a long-term violence prevention program to help early childhood educators foster respect between children in the early years.

"There are no plans to roll out programs in kindergartens or pre-schools about cross-dressing or sex education," said CEO Sam Page. "A sensational headline in news limited papers today is making a false claim."

The goal of the *Start Early* program is to prevent family violence in the long term.

"*Start Early* is a free online program to help early childhood educators explore how everyday behaviours and attitudes shape young children's relationships for life. It's about starting early to preventing domestic and family violence in the long term.

"When a Herald Sun journalist contacted us we tried to explain that the program is not about sex education or gender identity at all, but they seem to have written the story they wanted to write."

"Any one concerned about what is in these training modules for educators is welcome to sign up and see for themselves what is in them when they become available in coming weeks," concluded Ms Page.

To find out more about Start Early:

<http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/learning-hub/start-early/>

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