



The First 1000 Days

Our Position

During pregnancy, birth and the early years afterwards, the mother-infant is a dyad, a foundational unit, that needs to be recognised and central to First 1000 Days campaigns. It is not possible to talk about infants and children without recognising and responding to the central place of mothers in particular.

First 1000 Days Movement

We welcome the increased attention being giving to the early years for infants and children and recognise that this has been in response to a significant body of research on the baby brain. We understand and agree that these early years for infants and children are a significant influencing factor over the life course and welcome and support campaigns in response.

However, we maintain that programs that focus simply on nutrition, early childhood development or other individual but related aspects, fail to appreciate the need for a holistic response that acknowledges the central place of the mother-infant dyad during pregnancy and the early years after the birth and the need for optimal health outcomes for mothers, babies and their families.

Our Call

We call on all organisation involved with the First 1,000 Days, as well as Federal and all State Governments to place the mother-infant dyad at the centre of their approach. And furthermore, these related agencies and departments work for optimal pregnancy, birth and postnatal outcomes along with support for young families.

¹ Provenzi, Livjo, Giunia Scotto de Minico, Lorenzo Gisti, Elena Guida and Mitho Muller, Disentangling the Dyadic Dance: Theoretical, methodological and outcomes systematic review of Mother-Infant Dyadic Processes, Systematic Review Article, *Front. Psychology*, 19 March 2018
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