

Education in Australia/ New Zealand Vs United States

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### Abstract

The purpose of this research paper is to examine the possible differences between the education systems in Australia/ New Zealand versus the Education system in the United States. This paper will cover a variety of topics such as Early Childhood Education Goals and Outcomes, Birthing process, midwifery, and home births, Parenting for neonatal and early childhood, Intervention strategies with young children and their families, Minorities in the country and educational support for them, Teacher education, qualification, and benefits, EECE Policy Reviews and other useful information. The goals are to research and compare the results to one another.

*Keywords:* Goals, Outcome, midwifery, neonatal, minorities

### Education in the U.S. Verses Australia and New Zealand

There has been a long and widespread discussion about which education system among the world is the better one. Research states that the United States education system is the best in the world. The question is why and how does it compare to the education system in Australia and New Zealand? For today's topic, the paper will examine the similarities and differences between the United States and Australia/New Zealand in the areas of, early childhood education Goals and outcomes, birthing process, midwifery, and home births, parenting for neonatal and early childhood, Intervention strategies with young children and their families, minorities in the country and educational support for them, teacher education, qualification, and benefits, early childhood education policy reviews and other useful information having to do with education.

#### **All About Australia/ New Zealand**

Having a thorough understanding of Australia/New Zealand geography, demographics, government, economy and transnational issues are crucial when distinguishing between there education system versus the United States. Australia's " National language is English, it is Federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy, 52.1% of people practice Christianity, recently Australia has become a competitive advanced market economy. Long term concerns are the ageing population, pressure on infrastructure, and environmental issues such as floods droughts, and bushfires" (Australia). Now that we have some background information on Australia, let us discuss New Zealand. New Zealand's " National language is English, Maori & sign language, New Zealand has a unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy, 47.65% of people practice Christianity, recently has gone from a British market access economy to an industrialized free-market economy. Long term concerns have been boundary disputes over land" (New Zealand).

When comparing Australia and New Zealand the research states, “the national language of English is the most prominent” (Australia and New Zealand), with New Zealand and Australia. New Zealand has a unitary parliamentary monarchy which has a monarch, governor and a prime minister. While Australia is similar except they have a “federal constitutional monarchy which has a monarch, governor and a prime minister” (Australia), which is the same to New Zealand, except it also has a “deputy prime minister, treasurer and chief justice” (Australia). So basically, one government system holds more power than the other. They both have Christianity as being the most prominent religion. Australia and New Zealand also, both have a market economy which has recently become more advanced in some way. Australia and New Zealand both also seem to have boundary concerns between others, which is both countries biggest long-term issue. Overall, both Australia and New Zealand both have similarities such as Christianity, market economies, a parliament system, english has the primary language and similar long-term disputes between areas of land.

Now that we know about Australia and New Zealand, let’s see what the research says about the United States. The United States has, “ 73.0% of the people practice Christianity. The United States has a federal presidential constitutional republic, which consists of the president, vice president, House speaker and chief justice. English is the national language for the united states. The United States also operates under a mixed economic system. Some issues the United States has is boundary issues. When comparing the United States with Australia and New Zealand there are some similarities and difference. Australia and New Zealand are similar to the United States because in all three countries English the prominent language, Christianity is the most prominent religion and all countries seem to have boundary problems. Some differences between the United States are the government system being that the united states have a

president system, however, the united states also, has a chief justice which Australia also has. The United States economic system is a mixed economy and not a free market.

### **Early Childhood developmental indicators.**

Now that we know some of Australia's and New Zealand compared to the United States regarding religion, government system, language, economic system and the countries issues.

Now we can start to examine early childhood developmental indicators. For Australia, the research states, "Australia is not making sufficient progress in policies and programs to support children, particularly disadvantaged children in our country. We have regressed in areas of critical importance and systems designed to protect children are in crisis" (Research Unicef).

Based on the research, it seems there is a lack of quality education for students in Australia, as well as it seems that there is some type of major issue when it comes to children with special needs or who are otherwise known as "disadvantaged". The Research then goes on to talk about, "Australia's academic performance has continued on a consistent downward trend in all school sectors since 2000"(Research Unicef). So clearly, not just disadvantage children are being effected but it also seems like education, in general, is effected based on the findings. Another thing that the research talked about is according to the research on the Unicef website, "the number of children entering and remaining in out-of-home care has more than doubled". When children are taken out of the home and put in school it can be problematic and put them at a disadvantage, which based on the research, it seems that Australia has an issue helping children who are at a disadvantage.

New Zealand on the other hand, has some different problems when comparing it to Australia. The Unicef website states, "27% of kids were living at income poverty.... This leaves them unable to enjoy their rights, achieve their full potential or participate as full and equal

members of society”. When children are living at the poverty level the research states that it children are living at the poverty level this creates problems for them in school because according to the research they are “unable to enjoy their right and achieve their full potential”.

**Early Childhood Education Goals and Outcomes.** When researching educational goals and outcomes for Australia and New Zealand, a huge thing that was the primary focus was the impact that preschool has for later success in first grade. The semantic scholar article states, “ Two studies were done, the first study was the Mt. Druitt Project... children who came from low-income public housing... the children were followed by researchers until the end of first grade and compared with control children identified during preschool and kindergarten” (p. 106).

The research also states that a second study was performed. The semantic scholar article states,

“The Australian Early Childhood Study gathered data from 8,471 urban mothers of first-year elementary school children, focusing on children’s social and emotional problems that are symptomatic of a lack of readiness for school” (p. 106).

The results for both studies were, according to the Semitic scholar article,

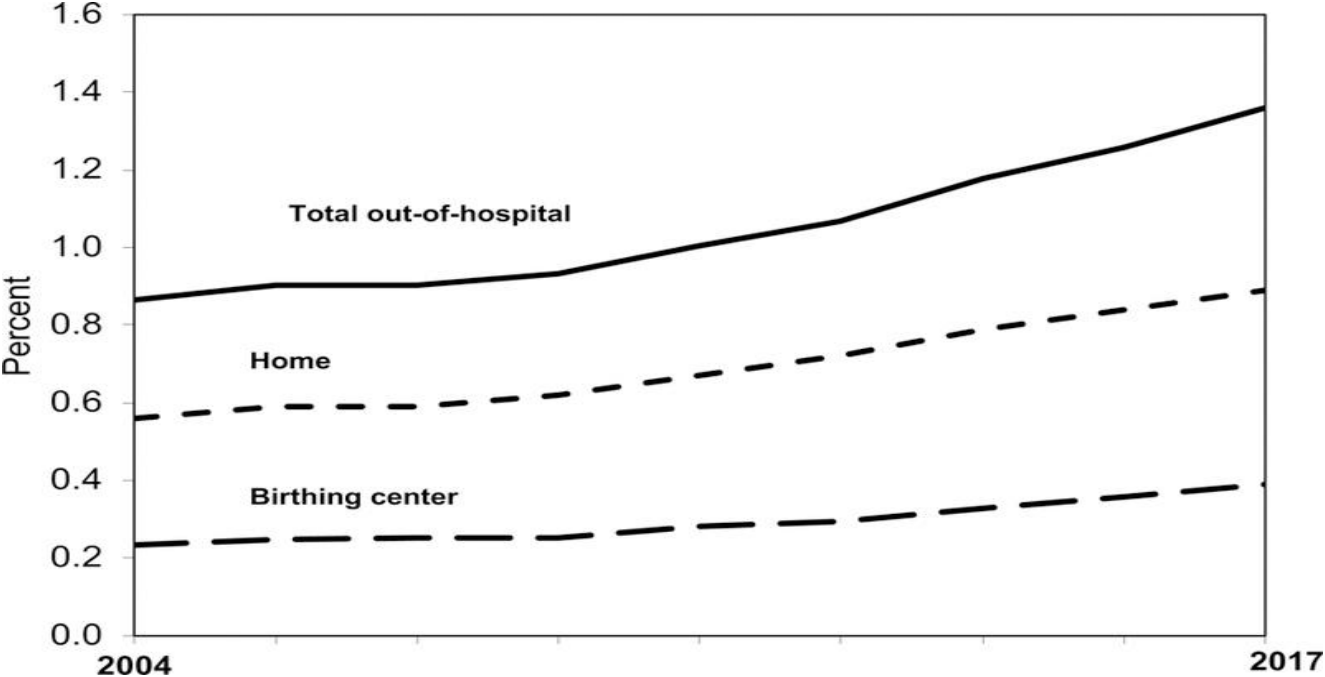
“found a number of benefits for parents, including enhanced relationships with children, alleviation of maternal stress, upgrading of education or training credentials, and improved employment status.<sup>43</sup> Studies such as these can play an important policy role by increasing acceptance of out-of-home child care for young children” (p. 106).

Knowing this information, we can only compare this to what is said about the United States, in the united states the focus on High-quality programs is important. According to the Decal website, “high-quality early care and education programs make children better prepared for school”. Knowing that information we can see based on the research that Australia has a similar belief system when compared to the united states. However, the major difference here in the

United States focus on the type of preschool program there is, and there have to be specific guidelines that make it a “quality” program. While researching on Australia the focus is, just having the child in preschool, not the type of preschool program, and if it’s a good quality program or not.

***Healthcare.*** It’s no secret that the U.S. healthcare system is different from that from other countries, but one thing I don’t think is talked about is how people in other countries go about healthcare and personal belief systems and traditional practices. The first thing we will discuss is the birthing process, midwifery and homebirths. I conducted an interview this Alison Ritz who grew up in Australia, she stated: “Hospital births are the most common type of births that occur however some people will have a home birth or have a midwife it’s just not as common as hospital births”. Based on her interview, I was able to compare those results to that of the united states. According to MacDorman,

Tables





As you can see according to the chart which shows the percentage of hospital births in the U.S to home births, hospital births are the most common. When we compare the chart to what the interview stated, they match up. It seems that the research suggests that hospital births are more common in both the United States and Australia/ New Zealand. However, one thing that the U.S. talks about is the use of a birthing center, which Australia didn't talk about having. A midwife in Australia can come to the hospital and help the expecting mother, but in the United States, they can also, come to a birthing center if the mother didn't want to stay in a hospital. These countries are comparable but the birthing center aspect is different.

For neonatal care in Australia/ New Zealand, the research showed some interesting information. The Australian government institute of health and welfare website stated, "High-risk newborn babies admitted to the highest-level intensive care units in Australia and New Zealand have a 91% chance of surviving... High-risk babies born between 29 and 36 weeks have at least a 95% chance of survival now" (Intensive care). The research is saying that there are different levels that a child is in the NICU and even if the child is in the highest level that would still have a 91% chance of surviving. Compared to the United States research showed, "Over the past decade, the United States has seen reduced infant mortality. From 2007 to 2017, the U.S. infant mortality rate dropped by 14 per cent (from 6.75 to 5.79 infant deaths per 1,000 live births)" (Kamal). After reviewing the united states death rate, it can be translated that 57.90% of 1000 live births do not survive. When comparing the united states and Australia and New Zealand the research shows, that Australia / New Zealand has a better percentage of surviving in the NICU than the United States has, despite the death rate going down in the United States. Kamal, also had a chart comparing the united states with other countries,

## Tables

## Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2017

Country	Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2017
United States	
Canada	5.8
France	4.5
United Kingdom	3.9
Belgium	3.9
Netherlands	3.6
Switzerland	3.6
Comparable Country Average	3.5
Australia	3.4
Germany	3.3
Austria	3.3
Sweden	2.9
Japan	2.4

Looking at the chart, you can see that the United States infant mortality rate is a lot higher at 5.8 verses Australia which shows only 3.3%. The United States is having so problems in their neonatal intensive care unit when you compare the number of deaths to the ones in Australia as stated by the research.

Intervention Strategies. Some Common things teachers can do to help with the learning process in schools are, for the United States, Australia and New Zealand, “ State the objective. direct instruction, reinforcement and recognition and grouping”(Response). In all three countries, these things that teachers can do is very well respected in each country. For intervention strategies, there aren't anything different between the two counties, they both have similar principles.

EECE Policy Reviews. When finding information on specific policy reviews for Australia and New Zealand it was found, “All 24 countries and jurisdictions surveyed for Starting Strong IV: Monitoring Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care monitor service and staff quality, but only 21 monitor child development and outcomes. Monitoring is a common practice in Australia where all ECEC settings are monitored by inspectors of each state and territory government regulatory authority” (OECD). What the article is saying is that for education programs they are monitored state inspectors and the government to ensure that care is monitored and quality is established

Reflection. When comparing Australia and New Zealand to the United States, overall from what I've gathered from the research is that the places that the United States lacks, Australia/ New Zealand has. The united states have a different government system than Australia

but it also has things that are similar such as, the same first language being English as well as similar national issues. However, some difference is the lack of resources for disadvantaged children, the united states, seems to have more of a focus on special resources than Australia and New Zealand do. It also, seems like in preschool programs based on the research, in the united states quality seems more important, like yes quality care is monitored but the united states seem to have a more thorough checklist versus the monitoring done in Australia based on the research. Australia however, seems to have a much better focus on the healthcare for individual making it low cost and quality, based on the number of infant deaths versus the united states infant death ratio. Australia and New Zealand win, based on the death rate percentages, Australia and New Zealand have a much better percentage of children surviving after birth. The united states and Australia and New Zealand both have similar intervention strategies. This research helped me understand both cultures and education systems and how even the smallest things can make a huge difference in quality care.

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