

Bio – Ana Nieto

Ana is an expert in early childhood development (ECD) and education with 20 years of global experience. She has designed and scaled evidence-based programs that strengthen ECD systems and provide quality support to young children, parents, caregivers, and frontline workers. She has worked across several countries and development partners through positions at foundations, NGOs, and UN agencies.

Ana currently leads the design and implementation of Minderoo Foundation's early years strategy and portfolio, which aims to address intergenerational disadvantage in Australia by ensuring that all children have a good start in life. She also oversees programs aimed at supporting selected countries in their efforts to empower parents with information and increase investments in the early years' agenda.

Prior to joining Minderoo, Ana worked at UNICEF Headquarters in New York, where she led key global partnerships and provided technical leadership on early childhood development. Her work involved strengthening the global architecture in this area, in collaboration with WHO, the World Bank, and UNESCO. Additionally, she spearheaded capability-building initiatives related to parenting, caregiver mental health, public financing, and multi-sectoral system strengthening worldwide.

She holds an MA in International Development from the University of Barcelona and an MSc in Public Policy from SOAS, University of London. She is also a graduate of Harvard's Executive Education and Leadership Program.