Media release

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Landmark deal sees not for profit Goodstart step in to purchase 24 Edge Early Learning centres

A new era begins today for children, families and the educators and teachers who support them at 24 Edge Early Learning centres after they were purchased by Goodstart.

Goodstart's CEO, Dr Ros Baxter said "As a not for profit, we exist only for children and we are always looking for ways to support more children and their families, particularly those who live in more vulnerable communities.

"The purchase of 9 centres in South Australia and a further 15 in Queensland is an opportunity to bring safe, high quality early learning to new communities and to more families. Two centres, Munno Para West and Gawler East are currently closed and Goodstart plans to reopen them in 2027.

"Now the real work begins. Over the coming months we will be focused on welcoming children, families and centre teams into Goodstart. Every community is unique and we will ensure everyone has the information and support they need to successfully transition.

"Goodstart understands what it takes to transition services well, having previously welcomed 64 centres from BFS Children's Services and Mission Australia into the Goodstart family.

"As we take these services on, we will invest more in professional development for the educators, more in support for children and families, and more in educational programs for the children.

"We look forward to continuing support and understanding from governments and regulators as we ensure the former Edge centres and the families they serve transition smoothly and safely.

"Goodstart is actively seeking opportunities for growth, particularly in areas where communities are underserved or have higher numbers of vulnerable children. It's vanishingly rare for a charitable organisation to be in a position to step in to purchase centres from a failed profit-making provider.

"There are more than 10,000 long day care services in Australia, and Goodstart runs only ~6% of them. The ACCC's Childcare Inquiry showed us having more not for profits operating services makes child care cheaper, better and more inclusive of children with additional needs.

"This is a significant day, especially as without this purchase, the most likely outcome was that these 24 ex-Edge centres would be run by yet another profit-making business which does not have children's outcomes as their sole driving focus. We don't think that is the best outcome for those children.

"In 2009 Goodstart was created to bring certainty for children, families and staff stranded by the collapse of the ABC Early Learning network. Today's investment will add to our social impact – offering children and families the comfort of knowing that they will have the support of the country's largest provider of high quality early learning – with 99% of our 666 current centres (soon to be 690 centres) meeting or exceeding the National Quality Standards.

South Australian Centres	Queensland Centres	Queensland Centres
Aldinga Beach - Rowley Rd	Aroona	Karana Downs
Angle Vale - Merlot Rd	Coomera	Laidley
Brahma Lodge	Eagleby	Maryborough
Gawler East – currently closed	Elanora	Peregian Springs
Mount Barker - Grantchester Ave	Ferny Grove	Pimpama Village
Munno Para West – currently closed	Gordonvale	Silkstone
Port Pirie	Grange	Tarragindi
Salisbury Downs	Kanimbla	
Virginia		

ends

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Notes for editors

Goodstart Early Learning is Australia's largest early learning provider with 666 centres nationwide. We're a not-for-profit social enterprise committed to improving the lives of Australia's children and their families. For more information, visit goodstart.org.au.

Acknowledgement of country

Goodstart acknowledges all Traditional Custodians across Australia and recognises First Nations peoples' continued cultural and spiritual connection to the land, sky and waterways that surround us. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.