

Media release



Wednesday 05 July 2023

ACCC report important first step in major policy review of early learning and care

Goodstart, Australia's largest not for profit provider of early learning and care, has welcomed the release of the Interim Report by the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission today as an important first step in a major review of policy settings for early learning and care in Australia.

Goodstart CEO, Dr Ros Baxter, said the report provided a comprehensive picture of usage, affordability and access to early learning and care in Australia, drawing on government data and parent surveys.

"The report provides a comprehensive snapshot of the current state of the early learning and care sector, and the challenges families face trying to find quality, affordable care for their children.

"It shows that affordability is a particular issue for families experiencing disadvantage, and particularly in communities with an inadequate number of places.

"The report also shows that costs in the sector have been rising higher than inflation.

"These are issues we have raised in our detailed submission to the Productivity Commission and we will continue to discuss them with the ACCC.

"We need to develop a road map to develop a universal early learning and care system where all Australian children can access high quality, affordable and inclusive early education and care. This report shows we have some way to go to get there, however, we commend the Albanese Government for its commitment.

"The ACCC confirms that childcare markets are intensely local, with most parents choosing a centre less than 15 minutes from home.

"Parents consider the location, quality and affordability of a centre, and will change centres if quality of the early learning and care does not meet their expectations for their children.

"We look forward to continuing to engage with both the ACCC and the Productivity Commission to build the road map toward a universal, high quality early learning and care system that best supports Australia's children, their families and our dedicated teachers and educators," she said.



For more information

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Notes for editors

Goodstart Early Learning is Australia's largest early learning provider with 665 centres nationwide. It is 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

We're for children, not for profit

visit goodstart.org.au



Media release (continued)

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.