

# Media release



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## Historic Commonwealth commitment to improve early childhood educators' wages welcomed

The confirmation that the 2024 Budget will provision funding for a significant wage rise for early childhood educators has been welcomed as an 'historic commitment' to pay equity.

Dr Ros Baxter, CEO of Goodstart Early Learning, Australia's largest not for profit provider, said the commitment was exciting news for the 150,000 educators across the early childhood sector.

"Goodstart welcomes this historic recognition of the value of early childhood educators, and the government's role in ensuring fair remuneration going forward," she said.

"Early childhood is an overwhelmingly female sector – 97% women – and the crucial work that educators do in supporting children's learning and development and supporting their parents to participate in the workforce has long been undervalued.

"Recent reviews by the ACCC and the Productivity Commission have identified that low wages are a key factor in workforce shortages and impact the supply of child care places.

"Vacancies in early childhood have more than doubled in the last four years, and continue to rise even as vacancies in other sectors are falling. Every unfilled educator role means up to 15 other families struggling to find care to work.

"This historic commitment by the Australian Government to fund a decent wage increase for educators is an important economic reform for women, addressing both pay equity in an overwhelming female sector and supporting women's workforce participation.

"There are industrial processes that need to be finalized before the wage increase is paid.

"Goodstart stands ready to roll our sleeves up and work with the government to deliver as soon as possible for our people, and the hardworking educators who are the backbone of this sector," Dr Baxter said.



### For more information

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**Notes for editors:** Goodstart Early Learning is Australia's largest not for profit early learning provider with 665 centres nationwide committed to improving the lives of Australia's children and their families. Website: [goodstart.org.au](http://goodstart.org.au).

**Acknowledgement of country:** Goodstart acknowledges all Traditional Custodians and recognises First Nations peoples' continued cultural and spiritual connection to the land, sky and waterways. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.