

# Media release



5 January 2026

## Thousands of families to benefit from Three Day Guarantee access to early learning

More than 66,000 low income families are set to benefit from the Federal Government's Three Day Guarantee on access to early learning effective from January 5.

Goodstart Early Learning, Australia's largest not for profit early learning provider has already adjusted more than 2,300 family accounts and hopes up to a thousand more families will take up the new offer. Low income families are set to be up to \$400 a week better off when accessing early learning because of the Guarantee.

Goodstart Deputy CEO Jeff Harvie said the new Guarantee corrects a serious barrier to early learning access that has prevented many children experiencing disadvantage from accessing sufficient early learning to help prepare them for a successful start at school.

"Research shows that three days of early learning each week in the years before school are the minimum necessary for children to develop the skills necessary to thrive at school. Under the previous rules, children from low income families whose parents 'failed' the activity test could only access early learning for their children one day a week," he said.

"Children's access to learning and better life outcomes should not be restricted by the circumstances and work choices of their parents. Every child deserves the opportunity for success," Mr Harvie said.

"The Three Day Guarantee was a key recommendation of the Productivity Commission's 2024 inquiry into early learning which identified that low income families were paying more of their income to access early learning than high income families.

"We have thousands of low income families in our centres, digging deep into their limited funds to give their children access to early learning, these families will now benefit from the Three Day Guarantee.

"We welcome the Government's initiative improving access to early learning for 66,000 families along with crucial cost of living relief. As many as 40,000 additional families will now be able to access early learning for their children because of the removal of the activity test and financial barriers created by it.

### Example of how the Three Day Guarantee works:

Mary is a 3 year old whose father earns \$80,000 a year as a labourer while her mother is at home caring for her new baby brother. Mary attends three days of early learning but her family is entitled to just one day (24 hours a fortnight) of Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and her family pays full fees for the rest.

Under the Three Day Guarantee, the family will be eligible for three days of CCS (72 hours a fortnight):

**Current cost:** Fees \$420 p/wk, Child Care Subsidy (90%): \$126 p/wk, **Out of Pocket cost \$296 p/wk**

**New cost:** Fees \$420 p/wk, Child Care Subsidy (90%): \$378 p/wk, **Out of Pocket cost \$42 p/wk, Saving \$254 p/wk**



### For more information

Contact **0429 553 103** or [media@goodstart.org.au](mailto:media@goodstart.org.au).

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