

Media release

3 June 2026



Goodstart appoints inaugural Chief First Nation's Officer – Rebecca Hutchings

Goodstart Early Learning's CEO, Dr Ros Baxter, today announced the appointment of proud Wonnarua woman Rebecca Hutchings as the organisations inaugural Chief First Nation's Officer.

Most recently the Director of the NSW Department of Education's Aboriginal Early Childhood Education and Care (AECEC), Rebecca's 20-year career has been driven by a deep commitment to First Nation's children's rights, cultural safety and educational justice.

"As our first Chief First Nation's Officer, Rebecca will be working with us all to drive measurable improvements in First Nations children's learning, development and wellbeing outcomes within Goodstart centres and beyond," Dr Baxter said.

"She will be partnering with our pedagogy team to further embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems into practice and our curriculum and ensure we're meeting First Nations family and cultural aspirations in our centres.

"Rebecca will also deliver and monitor the First Nations Choose Us employment strategy and be a leader and mentor for our First Nation's leaders to ensure they continue to thrive and are ready for new leadership challenges.

"Having started her career in ECEC as an early childhood teacher Rebecca believes high-quality, culturally strong early learning is foundational to Closing the Gap, and she is already passionate about Goodstart's purpose having worked with us as a leader of Gudjagang Gulgul Committee, set up to oversee, co-design and guide the work of the NSW Government's First Steps Early Childhood Education Strategy."

Rebecca's appointment and her responsibilities are built on the foundation of 15 years of work by Goodstarters right across Australia who are deeply committed to reconciliation and ensuring First Nations children have the best possible start in life.

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Notes for editors: Goodstart Early Learning is Australia's largest not for profit, early learning provider with 677 centres nationwide. For more information, visit goodstart.org.au. Goodstart acknowledges all Traditional Custodians across Australia, recognises First Nations peoples' continued cultural and spiritual connection to the land and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.