

# Media release

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## Goodstart welcomes focus on workforce in SA Royal Commission into Early Learning

The country's largest early learning provider has welcomed the final report of the South Australia Royal Commission into early childhood education and several recommendations which, if implemented, will improve access to quality early learning across the state.

Goodstart Early Learning, which has 665 centres nationally and 50 in South Australia, has praised the evidence-based focus the Commission has taken on improving access for children experiencing vulnerability as well as the emphasis on building the necessary workforce which will ensure all children have access to high quality early childhood education and care in South Australia.

Goodstart CEO Dr Ros Baxter said quality early learning depends significantly on workforce.

"This is why we are extremely excited to see the report's recommendation for an initial \$56m over four years to establish an Early Childhood Workforce Fund to help our sector attract and retain the high quality teachers and educators we need to deliver preschool and early learning for children in South Australia.

"We know that more than 60% of families in South Australia would choose high quality preschool within a long day care like Goodstart if there was no difference in cost. This is because our model meets the needs of children and families – especially working families, and it's pleasing to see the Commission has backed delivery with quality providers like Goodstart."

"We also welcome the Royal Commission's ambition to reduce developmental vulnerability in South Australia, in particular the recognition of early learning providers like Goodstart as the 'backbone' of an early childhood development system that provides high quality care alongside opportunities for earlier intervention and referrals when children are not on track.

"We are also pleased to see the Commission's focus on the role of the State Government as a steward of the system that can play a stronger role in planning to ensure all families have access to high quality education and care in their local communities," she said.

"We look forward to carefully considering the full report and working with the Government so quality long day care providers like Goodstart can continue to deliver for South Australian children and families."



#### For more information

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

#### Notes for editors

Goodstart Early Learning is Australia's largest early learning provider with 661 centres throughout the country. The not-for-profit social enterprise exists purely to improve the lives of Australia's children and their families. For more information, visit [goodstart.org.au](http://goodstart.org.au).

#### Acknowledgement of country

Goodstart Early Learning 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.