

# Media release



23 November 2023

## Goodstart: PC report a key milestone on the road to universal early learning for all children

Goodstart, Australia's largest not for profit provider of early learning and care, has welcomed the release of the Draft Report of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Early Childhood Education and Care, describing it as a key milestone on the road to universal early learning and care for all children.

Goodstart CEO Dr Ros Baxter said the report correctly identified the need to build a universal system starting with workforce, and then focusing on quality, inclusion, access and affordability.

"This report recognises that a truly universal early learning and care system would be a gamechanger for Australia, supporting an additional 21,000 full time jobs while increasing children's access to life changing early learning by 12%," she said.

"It would build on the Government's successful 2023 Child Care Subsidy reforms that reduced out of pocket costs for Goodstart families by 15%, and on Australia's world-leading National Quality Standard that regulates the quality and provision of early learning across all States and Territories.

"The Commission has rightly identified addressing the crisis in the early childhood workforce as the most urgent priority for reform. This can only be fixed by a Government funded wage rise for educators which should be top priority. We also acknowledge the ground breaking steps taking by the Australian Government to create the conditions for Multi-Employer Bargaining for the early years sector.

"This report gives the Government a strong basis to take immediate action in the upcoming budget as down payments for future reform. Specifically the government should fix the activity test; fund a wages subsidy and increase investment in the Inclusion Support Program."

Goodstart strongly supports the Commission's call to fix the activity test and give all children a 30 hour (3 day) entitlement to early learning. This is the eighth report to show that the activity test is preventing children who would benefit most from accessing early learning and preventing many of their parents from entering the workforce.

"We support the Commission's call for a stronger stewardship role for Government to ensure all children can access affordable, quality early learning regardless of where they live.

"And we strongly support the Commission's emphasis on reducing cost and other barriers for children experiencing disadvantage from accessing early learning.

"We also look forward to working with the Government to strengthen the unique and valuable role that Not-for-Profit providers like Goodstart play, which was recently confirmed by the ACCC.

"We will now consider the report carefully and respond thoughtfully. This is an ambitious draft reform blueprint and we look forward to working with the Commission, Government and our sector partners to ensure it can truly deliver the universal early learning and care system that Australia needs," Dr Baxter said.



**For more information**

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**We're for children, not for profit**

visit [goodstart.org.au](https://www.goodstart.org.au)



## Media release (continued)

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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](https://goodstart.org.au).

*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.*