

# Media release



13 September 2023

## First allocation from NSW Childcare Fund hits the right notes

Goodstart, Australia's largest not for profit provider of early learning and care, has welcomed today's announcement by the New South Wales Government allocating \$94 million of funding from its groundbreaking \$5billion Childcare & Economic Opportunity Fund.

Goodstart CEO Dr Ros Baxter said the initial investments in fee relief for three year old preschool, flexibility, new high quality not for profit services and workforce initiatives hit the right notes on what was needed.

"These are sensible first year priorities for the fund, which can help guide the bigger investments that the Fund can make in later years," she said.

"The additional investment to support and grow the early childhood workforce is urgently needed because of the shortages of teachers and educators across the State which impact on the ability of centres to offer places to all families who need it, but more needs to be done.

"We particularly welcome the investment in new high quality not for profit services. The proportion of long day care centres in NSW that are not for profit has fallen from 32% of all services to 24% in the last decade.

"The decline in the number of not for profit centres means less choice for families wanting to access not for profit services that generally offer higher quality, lower fees and more inclusive practices.

The rollout of universal preschool for 3 and 4 year old children across NSW is a vital long term \$10 billion commitment and we look forward to continuing to work with the State Government and the rest of the sector to deliver it,

"Today's announcement is an important next step in that journey," Dr Baxter said.



### For more information

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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.

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

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