

# Media release



Sunday 02 July 2023

## Statement from Goodstart Early Learning: Yes Campaign Support

Goodstart supports a Yes Vote on the referendum on the recognition of First Nations Australians in the constitution and a voice to Parliament.

"Goodstart is deeply committed to reconciliation, our centres are on their own local reconciliation journeys and as an organisation we're preparing for our second Stretch RAP," CEO Dr Ros Baxter said.

"That means we are all walking together to reach a place, a point in time, where our nation acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of this land and recognises that our First Peoples were dispossessed.

"Whenever a great wrong is done – in our own lives or in the life of a nation – healing can only occur if the wrong is acknowledged, the harm recognised and change is made.

"We've been invited as a nation, to unify and to recognize First Nations people and for the first time, give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians a say, a 'Voice' in the decisions being made about them.

"Goodstart has answered the invitation in the Uluru Statement from the Heart with a resounding yes.

"In the past few months our 15,000 strong team has been invited to join information sessions about the referendum and we've been fortunate to hear directly from esteemed Indigenous leaders including Dr Jackie Huggins.

"We will do all that we can to ensure that every Goodstarter has the support and knowledge they need to make an informed decision when the referendum is held but we will not, of course, be telling our team how to vote."

Goodstart is promoting reconciliation by:

- Increasing our knowledge about First Nations culture and practice in all of our early learning centres and at our centre support offices
- Across Australia our 660 plus centres are on their own reconciliation journey, learning and teaching about First Peoples and working with local First Nations elders and community members
- Creating safe and culturally welcoming centres for First Nations children, families and educators and exploring new ways to support remote communities
- Walking together with Goodstarters and our First Nations committees, focusing on Centre RAPs, and our corporate Stretch RAP
- Every Goodstart centre is about to receive copies of the children's book 'Finding our Heart Book' generously sponsored by Australian Unity.



**For more information**

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

**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).

### 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.