

Media release

21st March 2023



Goodstart's new CEO begins work with centre visits, a First Nations welcome and new appointments

Ros Baxter has spent her first day as CEO of Australia's largest early learning and care provider visiting centres and meeting children and Goodstarters in Brisbane.

"It was a real privilege to start my tenure with the opportunity to talk with children, educators and centre teams," Ros said.

"Goodstart is an important organisation, fulfilling its purpose to give children the quality early learning they need for school and life.

"Everyone has a right to a great start in life and I am looking forward to ensuring we continue to meet the vision of our founders."

Dr Baxter met teams and children at Goodstart centres in Kedron and Hendra before being Welcomed to Country by Kiana Charlton, and welcomed to Goodstart by Aunty Flo Watson, Ama Rose (Aunty McRose Elu) and the Torres Strait Choir.

Dr Baxter thanked Jeff Harvie for his work as Interim CEO and announced that he will take on a new role as the organisation's first Deputy CEO.

"As Deputy CEO Jeff brings extensive experience and a deep understanding of Goodstart, its people and its purpose. In his new role he will continue to provide guidance to our centre teams across our 661 centres with a focus on our centre-led ways of working and our quality journey."

Dr Baxter also announced that Paul Ryan, Acting Chief Operating Officer, would now take on a permanent role as General Manager Network Operations.

"Paul's hands-on knowledge and years of organisational expertise will be put to the best possible use as he helps to ensure our centre-led ways of working provide us the best possible outcomes for children, families and our centre teams," she said.

Dr Baxter's career has been shaped by a deep commitment to the lives of children and families, beginning her working life as a child protection social worker and senior practitioner.

She was most recently Deputy Secretary, Schools, in the Federal Department of Education and has 25 years experience as a public sector leader, policy analyst, academic, tribunal member and consultant.

We're for children, not for profit

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Media release (continued)

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For more information contact media manager Rachel Espiner on 0429 553 103 or media@goodstart.org.au.

Notes for editors

Goodstart Early Learning is Australia's largest early learning provider with 661 centres nationwide. We're 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.

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.