

Media release



8 August 2024

Goodstart welcomes historic funding of wage increase for early childhood educators

Australia's largest, not-for-profit provider of high-quality early learning and care has welcomed the Albanese Government's announcement that it will fund significant wage increases for 150,000 educators from December 2024.

"This announcement is cause for celebration – recognising the valuable and vital work educators do for Australia's children, families and workplaces," Goodstart's CEO Dr Ros Baxter said.

"The evidence shows quality early learning delivered by educators improves children's learning and development. Recent reviews by the ACCC and the Productivity Commission found low wages are a key factor in workforce shortages and impact the supply of early learning and child care places.

"With this \$3.6B commitment the Prime Minister has demonstrated he is serious about delivering a truly universal early education system for all of Australia's children and families – because the first thing a universal system needs is a strong workforce.

"We expect that today's announcement will see qualified early learning educators return to our sector, while encouraging others to establish a career in early learning. This in turn will help make more quality child-care places available for families who need it.

"Goodstart stands ready to roll up our sleeves and work with the government to deliver for the hardworking educators who are the backbone of our sector.

"We note the Government's decision to impose a cap on future fee rises for the life of the wages agreement. Goodstart believes that with increasing government investment comes increasing responsibility on our sector to deliver for Australian families.

As a not-for-profit, Goodstart has worked hard to ensure our educators have been paid above award wages, and our fee increases each year primarily go towards improved pay and conditions for educators. But we could not ask families to pay the steep increases in fees which would have been required to provide a pay rise of this magnitude. With the investment in wage increases announced today, we are confident we can work with the Government to operate within a fee-cap.

"I would like to acknowledge this truly historic announcement and thank the Prime Minister for his dogged commitment to our youngest Australians, and to the educators who do the life-changing work of education every day."



For more information

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Notes for editors: Goodstart Early Learning is Australia's largest not for profit early learning provider with 655 centres nationwide supporting 61,000 children from 51,000 families. We are committed to improving the lives of Australia's children and their families. Website: goodstart.org.au.

Acknowledgement of country: Goodstart acknowledges all Traditional Custodians and recognises First Nations peoples' continued cultural and spiritual connection to the land, sky and waterways. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.