

# Media release



3 June 2024

## Goodstart welcomes South Australian preschool commitment as a 'gamechanger' for children's learning

Goodstart Early Learning, South Australia's largest not for profit provider of early learning and care, has welcomed today's announcement of \$715 million to rollout out preschool for 3 year olds as a 'gamechanger' for children's learning across the State.

Goodstart Early Learning State Manager, Brooke Koenecke said the funding for preschool programs across long day care centres from 2026 would support providers to improve the quality of early learning and help remove cost as a barrier for children from low income families.

"This is great news for South Australia's youngest learners and their families," she said.

"The evidence put before the Royal Commission showed that children benefit from accessing at least two years of early learning before they start school.

"We know that government support makes a huge difference, since Victoria started funding 3 year old preschool programs in 2019, participation rates have surged from 51% to 81% of children.

"We are confident that with the Government and providers working together similar results can be delivered in South Australia.

"We welcome the commitment to fund 30 hours of early learning for children at risk. These children benefit most from access to early learning yet are the least likely to attend.

"Today's announcement includes \$96.6 million to grow the early childhood workforce, which is essential given the workforce shortages the sector faces.

"Goodstart congratulates the Malinauskas Government on this significant investment in preschool programs and looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Government to deliver this ambitious reform agenda over coming years."



### For more information

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**Notes for editors:** Goodstart Early Learning is Australia's largest not for profit early learning provider with 654 centres nationwide committed to improving the lives of Australia's children and their families. Website: [goodstart.org.au](http://goodstart.org.au).

**Media release** (continued)

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**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.

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

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