Media release



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Goodstart welcomes NT Preschool review

Goodstart Early Learning welcomes the release of the Northern Territory Government's review of preschool, which presents a promising future for early childhood education in the Territory.

The review advocates for increased access to preschool hours in the year before school and the expansion of three-year-old preschool.

Goodstart Early Learning Chief Executive Officer Dr Ros Baxter said the review highlighted the importance of early childhood education as the foundation for lifelong learning and development.

"By increasing the availability of preschool hours and recognising the value of not-for-profit preschool services that support workforce participation like Goodstart, more children in the Northern Territory will have the opportunity to benefit from high-quality early education," Dr Baxter said.

"Research consistently shows that early engagement in structured learning environments significantly boosts children's cognitive and emotional development setting them up for success in school and beyond.

"We commend the NT Government for their commitment to early childhood education and look forward to the positive changes this review will bring. As the largest provider of early childhood education and care in the Territory, Goodstart is committed to working closely with all stakeholders to ensure that every child has access to the high-quality preschool education they deserve.



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: <u>goodstart.org.au</u>.

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.