

# Media release

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12 December 2024

## Christmas comes early for Goodstart's educators and teachers with wages boost

Goodstart Early Learning educators, teachers and in-centre teams are celebrating after being among the first to receive the vital government funded wages boost this week.

Goodstart's CEO, DR Ros Baxter said the not-for-profit and Australia's largest provider of early childhood education and care had finalised a grant agreement for the Worker Retention Payment.

"We are thrilled that we can pass on this much needed pay increase to our 16,000 workers before Christmas," Dr Baxter said.

"As we have said many times since this historic announcement, our people make the difference in the lives of tens of thousands of children every year, delivering high quality early learning and positive outcomes which set the foundation for school and life.

"This boost will make an enormous difference to our team members who have been underpaid, and unrecognised, for too long.

"It will also help to ensure that Goodstart and other early learning centres can retain the amazing workforce we already have and attract people to rich and rewarding careers in is ECEC, including those who have left the sector for better pay elsewhere.

"On behalf of our team and the families who depend upon them, I want to thank the Federal Government for their unwavering commitment to early childhood education and care (ECEC) and to the workforce that delivers it.

"They saw the need, listened to our educators and responded. We are confident this is the first step towards securing long-term investment in our vital early years professionals."

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### For more information

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

**Notes for editors:** Goodstart Early Learning is Australia's largest not for profit early learning provider with 653 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](http://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.