

# Media release

16 January 2025



## Early childhood workforce vacancies plunge 22% after wages subsidy announcement

New data shows that vacancies for early childhood teachers and educators plunged 22% by the end of 2024 following the announcement of the Federal Government's 15% wages subsidy for educators.

Just in time for Christmas, Goodstart Early Learning's 16,000 educators and teachers were among the first in the nation to receive the initial 10% of the worker retention payment. Australia's largest not for profit early learning provider said the decision by the Federal Government to fund the retention wages subsidy was making a difference.

"This is great news for families wanting to find an early learning place for children. Workforce pressures are easing as fewer educators are leaving now that they feel their work is properly valued," Goodstart CEO Dr Ros Baxter said.

"The national Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) published by Jobs and Skills Australia shows vacancy rates began falling in May last year after the government announced it would fund the wages subsidy in its budget announcement.

"The new data shows vacancies are at their lowest levels in three years, with vacancies for educators down 17% and vacancies for teachers down 32% year on year.

"The 15% retention wages subsidy is clearly achieving its policy objective of encouraging more educators and teachers to stay in early learning.

"Retaining more educators and teachers is the first crucial step to building a universal early learning system that is high quality, accessible, inclusive and affordable.

"Goodstart's in centre teams will receive the additional 5 percent boost later in 2025. The Federal Government should be well pleased with these early results showing that this big reform step is delivering higher retention rates for the early childhood workforce," she said.

### MONTHLY JOB VACANCIES ADVERTISED ON THE INTERNET

Occupation	Dec-23	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec-24	Reduction
Centre Managers	364	357	338	349	347	365	351	332	308	296	305	296	292	19.8%
Early Childhood Teachers	2,571	2,416	2,239	2,283	2,193	2,109	1,983	1,850	1,785	1,769	1,850	1,874	1,739	32.4%
Child Care Workers	4,786	4,563	4,259	4,444	4,314	4,406	4,298	4,272	4,191	4,314	4,471	4,456	3,982	16.8%
<b>ECEC TOTAL</b>	<b>7,721</b>	<b>7,336</b>	<b>6,836</b>	<b>7,076</b>	<b>6,854</b>	<b>6,881</b>	<b>6,632</b>	<b>6,454</b>	<b>6,283</b>	<b>6,380</b>	<b>6,626</b>	<b>6,626</b>	<b>6,013</b>	22.1%
<b>Year on Year Reduction</b>	9.1%	7.9%	3.8%	-0.3%	-2.6%	-6.7%	-10%	-16%	-19%	-20%	-20%	-21%	-22%	

Source: Jobs & Skills Australia Internet Vacancies Index ends



**For more information**

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**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.