

Media release



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Queensland's Free Kindy reform has cut costs for families and increased kindy enrolments

Goodstart, Queensland's largest not for profit provider of early learning and care, has said that Queensland's Free Kindy initiative has significantly improved affordability of kindy in Queensland, and led to an increase in enrolments.

Goodstart Early Learning CEO Dr Ros Baxter said the overwhelming majority of Queensland families using kindy enjoyed a reduction in out of pocket costs thanks to Free Kindy.

"Kindy in long day care in Queensland is more affordable for the overwhelming majority of families and we have seen enrolments rise in our kindy programs by over 800 children this year as a result, which is a very significant 1.6% increase" she said.

"The State Government has delivered what they promised to deliver which was 600 hours of kindy free for children in long day care kindy programs.

"While families will have an out of pocket cost for the additional hours they are enrolled, it is a lot less than it was last year for the vast majority of families.

"Goodstart families should have no concerns. The system is working well, and all Goodstart kindy families will receive their full 600 hours of Free Kindy funding from the Queensland Government.

"Separately from the good work being done in Queensland, other states have fee subsidy systems which impact families differently. Preschool funding is a complex mixture of Commonwealth and State funding and is currently being reviewed by the Productivity Commission at a national level.

"Goodstart has always played a national role in making recommendations about how the whole system should look, including federal funding settings.

"In our submission to the Productivity Commission, Goodstart has called for a national rethink of kindy/preschool funding to deliver a minimum entitlement of 30 hours a week of high quality early learning for all children in the two years before school that would be free for low income families.

"All families should receive a similar high standard of quality early learning delivered by a qualified teacher at no or low cost whether they attend a long day care centre, a community sessional service or a school-based program.

"That is a big reform that is not solely in Queensland's power to deliver. It needs agreement from all Governments, but would be a great outcome for families and for child development," she said.

The Productivity Commission is due to report to the Federal Government with its findings next month.



For more information

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Notes for editors: Goodstart Early Learning is Australia's largest not for profit early learning provider with 665 centres nationwide 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.

We're for children, not for profit

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