



Brighter Beginnings and Affordable Preschool

15 June 2022

What you need to know:

The NSW Government today announced:

- The Affordable Preschool initiative, a \$1.4 billion investment over 4 years, to assist more NSW families to access preschool for their children.
- An expansion of the flagship 'Brighter Beginnings' initiative – \$376.5 million over 4 years – which will deliver lifelong benefits for every child and particularly benefit families who most need support.

Dear services and providers,

Today, the NSW Government announced the Affordable Preschool initiative and a landmark expansion of the flagship Brighter Beginnings initiative.

The Affordable Preschool initiative will deliver fee relief for families with children in preschool, as well as introduce funding for 3 year old preschool in long day care for the first time, from 2023.

This is a major investment of \$1.4 billion over 4 years to make preschool programs more affordable and accessible for more NSW families.

The Affordable Preschool initiative will provide all children across the state with the opportunity to access 600 hours per year of preschool education in the years before school, no matter their circumstances or where they live.

The expansion of the Brighter Beginnings initiative which was also announced today – \$376.5 million over 4 years – will deliver lifelong benefits for every child and particularly benefit families who most need support.

Brighter Beginnings sees government agencies work together with education, health and social service professionals to take collective responsibility for ensuring the best life outcomes for every child in NSW.

A key Brighter Beginnings commitment is to bring health and development checks into NSW preschools in partnership with health professionals from 2023.

Key features and benefits

Affordable Preschool initiative:

- Fee relief will be made ongoing for every child in a community and mobile preschool, saving families up to \$4,000 per child each year.
- Fee relief will be made available for 4 and 5 year old children attending preschool in long day care. This will save families up to \$2,000 per child per year.
- NSW Department of Education preschools will also be supported to provide 600 hours of affordable preschool or the equivalent of 5 days per fortnight of affordable preschool for all children in public preschools.
- Trial funding of \$64.1 million over two years from 2023 to support long day care services to enable more 3 year old children to participate in a preschool program.

Brighter Beginnings initiative:

- The landmark expansion of Brighter Beginnings – \$376.5 million over 4 years – will focus on the critical first 5 years or 2,000 days of a child's life.
- Investing in Brighter Beginnings will expand a suite of proven programs targeting child development at all life stages, from prenatal to age 5.
- This includes increasing support for existing Aboriginal Child and Family Centres and build more Centres to deliver key culturally safe services and supports for Aboriginal families with children aged 0-8 years.
- It also includes the expansion of Pregnancy Family Conferencing, increasing the number of families benefiting from Sustaining NSW Families and developing the Digital Baby Book

- Through health and development checks in preschools, thousands of families of preschool children will be provided with vital health information they are currently missing out on to help ensure the best start in life for their child.

For more information

Further details will be shared after the 2022-23 NSW Budget is handed down on Tuesday 21 June 2022.

If you have any questions, please email us at ececd@det.nsw.edu.au or contact the Information and Enquiries team on 1800 619 113.

Existing Start Strong Free Preschool funding

Start Strong Free Preschool funding will continue through to the end of 2022.

The [program guidelines](#) have been updated based on the recent Start Strong Free Preschool Survey. From Term 3, 2022 services will be able to charge levies as required.

Most services were supportive of changes to the program that increased the flexibility to seek financial contributions, where necessary.

The Department is currently reviewing Start Strong Free Preschool funding allocations and services with an increased funding allocation can anticipate a payment to be processed prior to Term 3 for Terms 1 and 2 2022.

For the latest COVID-19 advice please visit the [COVID-19 guidelines for ECEC services](#).



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