



NSW Government Budget 2022-23 Update

21 June 2022

What you need to know:

- The NSW Government today handed down the 2022-23 Budget.
- The Budget includes a landmark investment of \$15.9 billion for a package of initiatives that will transform early childhood education and care in NSW over the next 10 years.
- The package includes immediate workforce and affordability measures.
- Visit the [Early Years Commitment webpages](#) to find out more.

A message from the Hon Sarah Mitchell, Minister for Education and Early Learning

Dear services and providers

Today the NSW Government has announced a historic new investment to transform early childhood education and care in NSW and change the future for children and families across the state.

With a landmark commitment of \$15.9 billion over 10 years, our Early Years Commitment is our plan to:

- scale up state-wide family and child development programs that are proven to make a positive difference in the vital first 2,000 days of children's lives

- make essential early childhood education and care services cheaper and more accessible for parents and carers where and when they need it
- build up quality in services and ensure the best early childhood education is available for our littlest learners
- invest in our invaluable early childhood education and care workforce and make early childhood education a career of choice for a whole new generation of teachers and educators.

A centrepiece of our plan is the commitment to introduce a universal pre-Kindergarten year for every NSW child by the end of the decade. With a focus on offering children a high quality early learning experience on more days, and in more locations, in the critical year before school, universal pre-Kindergarten will be a game-changer for NSW children, families, the sector and our communities right across the state.

This is a plan to be delivered in partnership.

Our partnership with you – our early childhood teachers, educators and services – will be at the heart of these reforms.

The NSW Department of Education will work in close partnership with families, with communities and with our early learning sector to realise our vision.

We will consult widely with families, communities and our teachers, educators and services as we develop, design and implement the Early Years Commitment.

We look forward to seeing the sector grow and become even more valued as a result of these reforms.

We want to see more affordable places. We want to see the quality of early learning services continue to improve, and we want to see universal access to quality education for our littlest learners, particularly in the year before school.

Because every child deserves the very best start in life and every family should have access to affordable, quality early childhood education and care, no matter their circumstances or where they live.

The Early Years Commitment

The Early Years Commitment includes a package of great new initiatives and reforms:

Brighter Beginnings - \$376.5 million over 4 years

An expanded suite of evidence-based programs targeting child development at all life stages, from prenatal to age 5 including:

- introducing health and development checks in preschools - \$111.2 million
- expanding Pregnancy Family Conferencing - \$38.6 million
- expanding Sustaining NSW Families - \$70.9 million
- supporting existing Aboriginal Child and Family Centres and building 6 new centres - \$98.7 million
- developing the Digital Baby Book - \$57.2 million.

Accessible Childcare and Economic Participation Fund - \$775 million over 4 years

A new fund to target known barriers to families accessing quality early childhood education and care by providing major incentives to enable providers to extend their services to more families, more affordably. The Fund will be open for applications from 2023.

Affordable Preschool - \$1.4 billion over 4 years + \$64.1 million over 2 years

\$1.4 billion for fee-relief for all families with children in preschool and \$64.1 million to introduce funding for 3 year old preschool in long day care for the first time, including:

- up to \$4,000 a year for 3, 4, and 5 year old children in community and mobile preschools
- the equivalent of 5 days a fortnight of affordable preschool for all children in Department of Education preschools
- up to \$2,000 a year for 4-5 year old children in eligible preschool programs in long day care services.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten - \$5.8 billion over 10 years

The NSW Government will introduce a universal pre-Kindergarten year in the year before primary school by 2030, providing free, high quality preschool for five days a week for every child in NSW.

We are starting with \$53.4 million initially to consult, investigate and design a model for delivery that best leverages the existing ECEC sector. Ultimately, every child in NSW will have access to a specialised year of play-based learning, smoothing their transition to school and securing their path to a brighter future.

We expect universal pre-kindergarten to be delivered on and off school sites and by department preschools and existing and new providers.

Investing in our workforce - \$281.6 million over 4 years

A major new investment in a suite of measure to attract, retain and develop our skilled and valued early childhood educators and teachers including scholarships, employer supplements and accelerated career pathways.

This is our once-in-a-generation opportunity to change the future for every child and every family in NSW. I look forward to working in partnership with families, with communities and with you – our early learning sector – to realise this vision.



The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC
NSW Minister for Education and Early Learning

For more information

Find out more on the [Early Years Commitment webpages](#).

The NSW Department of Education will continue to work with services and providers to unpack the Budget announcements and what they mean for the sector.

Keep an eye out for future updates [via eDM](#) or [on our Facebook page](#).

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.

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



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