



Dear Service Provider

We are pleased to provide you with an update for your service/s regarding the Start Strong Free Preschool program in 2022.

The NSW Government has committed \$150 million to support eligible community and mobile preschool services to provide 600 hours of free preschool to eligible children in 2022. The Start Strong Free Preschool program will provide financial support for families and help with the balance of work and family life.

Community and mobile preschools will have the opportunity to opt in to the program and receive additional funding, paid on top of current annual Start Strong funding allocation. Start Strong Free Preschool replaces the COVID-19 Free Preschool Funding program from January 2022.

Further information about the opt-in process will be provided in due course.

**Program guidelines**

The [Start Strong Free Preschool program guidelines](#) are now available on the department's website.

## **Funding available**

A maximum funding rate of \$4,000 (ex GST) per child is available to services for eligible children aged 3 years and above enrolled for 600 hours or more. A pro-rata rate of funding will be applied for children enrolled for less than 600 hours per year. Each services' funding will depend on the number of eligible enrolled children.

Service level funding calculations will be advised following the finalisation of the August 2021 Preschool Census data. This is anticipated to be available from December 2021. In the meantime, a [planning tool](#) is available to assist with budget and enrolment planning for 2022 for Start Strong and Start Strong Free Preschool programs.

## **Sector Support**

The department is providing Sector Support to community and mobile preschools to December 2021 for the department's free preschool programs, and provide advice on the associated guidelines, funding conditions and spending rules.

Community Connections Solutions Australia (CCSA) and Community Early Learning Australia (CELA) have been engaged to deliver this sector support, including phone and email support.

- CCSA can be contacted on 1800 991 602 or [freepreschool@ccsa.org.au](mailto:freepreschool@ccsa.org.au)
- CELA can be contacted on 1800 157 818 or [covid19@cela.org.au](mailto:covid19@cela.org.au)

The department is also available to help you if you have questions about the funding program. Please contact the Information and Enquiries team at [ecec.funding@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ecec.funding@det.nsw.edu.au) or on 1300 755 426.



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Sent to services and providers in NSW

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