

Minister for Education and Youth

Ref: PDR Id MS21-000886

The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning GPO Box 5341 SYDNEY NSW 2001

By email: office@mitchell.minister.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister

I write to you in response to your letter of 18 July 2021, regarding the continuing COVID-19 outbreak in NSW. Specifically, your request that 2020 performance provisions relating to COVID-19 under the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (UANP) apply to NSW in 2021. I will write separately on the other issues you have raised.

On 2 April 2020, in the context of the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government announced a commitment of \$453.2 million to extend the 2018–2020 UANP into the 2021 program year. I acknowledge the rapidly evolving events across Australia in relation to the pandemic. In response, and to provide certainty of funding, I propose to give effect to Clause 30 of the UANP through a bilateral exchange of letters with each jurisdiction.

I seek your written agreement to the extension of the 2020 COVID-19 performance requirements and payments to 2021, and for Table 5 of the current UANP to be replaced by the enclosed new table. This table sets out the revised performance requirements and payments for the 2021 program year, and is directly reflective of tiers and payments from the 2020 program year. I ask that you please provide your written agreement by no later than 31 August 2021.

I commend the commitment all governments have shown to maintaining preschool enrolments and participation in early learning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including improving affordability for families, and providing support for remote delivery and to families for at-home learning.

I have copied this letter to the Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP.

Yours sincerely

Alan Tudge / / /2021



Minister for Education and Youth

Ref: PDR Id MS21-000886

The Hon Ingrid Stitt MLC Minister for Early Childhood Level 22, 50 Lonsdale Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000

By email: Ingrid.Stitt@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister

I write to you on the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (UANP).

As you know, on 2 April 2020 the Government made a \$453.2 million commitment to extend the 2018–2020 UANP to the 2021 program year. Later in 2020, governments agreed an approach for assessment of 2020 performance under the UANP that took into account the impacts of COVID-19 and agreed additional clauses in the UANP.

I acknowledge the rapidly evolving events across Australia in relation to the pandemic. In response, and to provide certainty of funding, I propose to give effect to Clause 30 of the UANP through a bilateral exchange of letters with each jurisdiction.

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Yours sincerely

Alan Tudge

1 1 1 2021



Minister for Education and Youth

Ref: PDR Id MS21-000886

The Hon Grace Grace MP Minister for Education PO Box 15033 CITY EAST QLD 4002

By email: education@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister Grace

I write to you on the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (UANP).

As you know, on 2 April 2020 the Government made a \$453.2 million commitment to extend the 2018–2020 UANP to the 2021 program year. Later in 2020, governments agreed an approach for assessment of 2020 performance under the UANP that took into account the impacts of COVID-19 and agreed additional clauses in the UANP.

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Yours sincerely

Alan Tudge 6 / 8 / 2021



Minister for Education and Youth

Ref: PDR Id MS21-000886

The Hon Sue Ellery MLC Minister for Education and Training <u>Minister.Ellery@dpc.wa.gov.au</u>

Dear Minister Juce

I write to you on the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (UANP).

As you know, on 2 April 2020 the Government made a \$453.2 million commitment to extend the 2018–2020 UANP to the 2021 program year. Later in 2020, governments agreed an approach for assessment of 2020 performance under the UANP that took into account the impacts of COVID-19 and agreed additional clauses in the UANP.

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Yours sincerely

Alan Tudge

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Minister for Education and Youth

Ref: PDR Id MS21-000886

The Hon John Gardner MP Minister for Education GPO Box 1152 ADELAIDE SA 5001

By email: minister.gardner@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister John

I write to you on the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (UANP).

As you know, on 2 April 2020 the Government made a \$453.2 million commitment to extend the 2018–2020 UANP to the 2021 program year. Later in 2020, governments agreed an approach for assessment of 2020 performance under the UANP that took into account the impacts of COVID-19 and agreed additional clauses in the UANP.

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Yours sincerely

Alan Tudge

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Minister for Education and Youth

Ref: PDR Id MS21-000886

The Hon Sarah Courtney MP Minister for Education GPO Box 169 HOBART TAS 7001

By email: <u>sarah.courtney@dpac.tas.gov.au</u>

Dear Minister Jack

I write to you on the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (UANP).

As you know, on 2 April 2020 the Government made a \$453.2 million commitment to extend the 2018–2020 UANP to the 2021 program year. Later in 2020, governments agreed an approach for assessment of 2020 performance under the UANP that took into account the impacts of COVID-19 and agreed additional clauses in the UANP.

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Yours sincerely

Alan Tudge

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Minister for Education and Youth

Ref: PDR Id MS21-000886

Ms Yvette Berry MLA Minister for Education and Youth Affairs Minister for Early Childhood Development GPO Box 1020 CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: Berry@act.gov.au

Dear Minister Yuthe

I write to you on the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (UANP).

As you know, on 2 April 2020 the Government made a \$453.2 million commitment to extend the 2018–2020 UANP to the 2021 program year. Later in 2020, governments agreed an approach for assessment of 2020 performance under the UANP that took into account the impacts of COVID-19 and agreed additional clauses in the UANP.

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Yours sincerely

Alan Tudge

La 1 8/2021



Minister for Education and Youth

Ref: PDR Id MS21-000886

The Hon Lauren Moss MLA Minister for Education GPO Box 3146 DARWIN NT 0801

By email: minister.moss@nt.gov.au

Dear Minister Lauron

I write to you on the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (UANP).

As you know, on 2 April 2020 the Government made a \$453.2 million commitment to extend the 2018–2020 UANP to the 2021 program year. Later in 2020, governments agreed an approach for assessment of 2020 performance under the UANP that took into account the impacts of COVID-19 and agreed additional clauses in the UANP.

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Yours sincerely

Alan Tudge 6 / f / 2021

Date	Deliverable	Proportion of funding available within each financial year*
2020-21		
31 January 2021	The Commonwealth and the State have agreed on an Implementation Plan for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.	30 per cent of 2021 program year funding
	2021-22	
31 March 2022	Overall assessment of performance in 2021	70 per cent of 2021 program year funding (comprised of the percentages attributable to performance as shown below)
	For each Performance Indicator (PI) 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3:	
	2021 achievement is at least 95 per cent;	11.7 per cent of 2021 program year funding
	<u>OR</u>	<u>OR</u>
	2021 achievement is at least 90 per cent;	10.5 per cent of 2021 program year funding
	<u>OR</u>	<u>OR</u>
	2021 achievement is at least 80 per cent;	9.3 per cent of 2021 program year funding
	<u>OR</u>	<u>OR</u>
	2021 achievement is below 80 per cent;	8.2 per cent of 2021 program year funding
	 A State may elect to have their funding calculated on the basis of the State's final assessed performance result in 2019 if at any time during the census period 20 per cent or more of the State's total population was under 'stay at home orders', for example: instructed not to leave the premises where a person ordinarily resides unless for reasons including (but not limited to) work, education, care, exercise or obtaining necessary goods or services. 	
	If these conditions are met, then a State's performance in the 2021 program year will be assessed using the State's final assessed 2019 performance result (i.e. Tier, 1, 2, 3 or 4), as advised by the Minister for Education in writing, against PI 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3. Payments will be calculated using the percentages in Table 3, above, applied to 2021 program year funding.	

Table 5: Performance requirements and payments for 2021 program year

* Percentages are rounded. Actual payments will be calculated to the dollar.



The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

RML21/3200

The Hon A Tudge MP House of Representatives Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

<u>Alan.tudge.mp@aph.gov.au</u>

Dear Minister

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 August 2021 acknowledging the need to provide funding certainty in light of the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the NSW Early Childhood Education (ECE) sector.

I agree to your proposal to extend 2020 COVID-19 performance requirements and payments to 2021. I endorse giving effect to revised provisions by replacing Table 5 in the existing UANP with the new table attached to your correspondence which sets out revised performance requirements and payments for 2021 in line with tiers and payments from the 2020 program year.

As NSW has been subjected to significant lockdowns for the duration of the census period 2-13 August 2021, I am pleased that the State can elect to have funding calculated on the basis of our final assessed performance result in 2019 applied to 2021 program year funding.

I note that the pandemic continues to have direct impacts that were not anticipated when the UANP was originally signed. This highlights the importance of future, longer term agreements building in flexibility in alignment with local sector and community needs.

On behalf of our services, the children who attend them and their families, I thank you for being responsive on the importance of providing support and financial stability for UANP funding in this time of uncertainty and financial fragility.

arah Mitchell

Sarah Mitchell MLC 31 August 2021



Minister for Workplace Safety Minister for Early Childhood 50 Lonsdale Street Melbourne Victoria 3000 Telephone: +61 3 9136 2444

Our ref: COR2182488

The Hon Alan Tudge Minister for Education and Youth alan.tudge.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 August 2021 regarding the proposal to give effect to Clause 30 of the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (NP UAECE). I appreciate this pragmatic response to the continuing impact of COVID-19.

I am pleased to provide my written agreement to give effect to Clause 30, meaning that the 2020 COVID-19 performance requirements and payments will be extended to 2021. I agree for Table 5 of the current UANP to be replaced by the table you provided with your letter dated 10 August 2021.

This flexibility around performance arrangements is critical to ensuring kindergarten services continue to access much needed funding through the NP UAECE despite the unavoidable service disruptions or challenges experienced in 2021.

The NP UAECE has been an excellent mechanism for increasing access and participation in early childhood education and care across Australia. We have an opportunity to build on this strong foundation when negotiating the new Preschool Reform Agreement. I look forward to discussing this agreement with you at the next Education Minister's Meeting.

Yours sincerely

Ingrid Stitt MP Minister for Early Childhood

01/09/2021

Cc: The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Treasurer Tim Pallas MP, Treasurer of Victoria





Minister for Education Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing

> 1 William Street Brisbane 4000 PO Box 15033 City East Queensland 4002 Australia Telephone +61 7 3719 7110 Email: education@ministerial.qld.gov.au Email: industrialrelations@ministerial.qld.gov.au Email: racing@ministerial.qld.gov.au

1 SEP 2021

The Honourable Alan Tudge MP Minister for Education and Youth Email: <u>correspondence@dese.gov.au</u>

Dear Minister (20

Thank you for your letter dated 6 August 2021 regarding the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 health pandemic as it relates to the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (UANP) 2018–2021.

I am pleased to agree to your proposed variation to the UANP 2018–2021, which extends the approach used for assessment of 2020 state and territory performance into 2021.

I acknowledge that in agreeing to the extension of these arrangements to 2021, table five of the UANP 2018–2021 (as published on the Council for Federal Financial Relations website) will be amended as per your correspondence.

As you may be aware, 11 local government areas, accounting for approximately 70% of Queensland's population, were under 'stay at home' orders during the week beginning 2 August 2021, which coincided with the National Early Childhood Education Census week.

Given these circumstances, Queensland deferred its 2021 census collection to the week commencing 23 August 2021. In agreeing to this extension, I understand that should it choose to do so, Queensland may nonetheless elect to have its 2021 performance based on 2019 program year data.

The approach put in place in response to the COVID-19 health pandemic has the effect of guaranteeing 70% of available performance funding, or 79.2% of total available funding in 2021. This strikes a reasonable balance between retaining a focus on preschool participation, and providing sensible financial safeguards that ensure continued delivery of an essential service.

I hope this balanced approach remains a feature of our continued discussions regarding the Preschool Reform Agreement 2022–2025, and I look forward to discussing this matter with you further at the 3 September 2021 Education Ministers Meeting.

I invite your officers to contact Ms Amanda O'Hara, Acting Assistant Director-General, Strategic Policy and Intergovernmental Relations, on (07) 3034 5905 or by email at <u>amanda.o'hara@qed.gld.gov.au</u>.

If you require additional information or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me directly or alternatively your staff can contact Ms Sharon Durham, Chief of Staff of my office, on (07) 3719 7110.

Yours sincerely

GRACE GRACE MP Minister for Education Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing

Ref: 21/497914

cc: The Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for Trade The Honourable Cameron Dick MP, Treasurer and Minister for Investment





Hon Sue Ellery MLC Minister for Education and Training Leader of the Legislative Council

Your Ref: PDR Id MS21-000886 Our Ref: 61-33679

Hon Alan Tudge MP Minister for Education and Youth

Email: alan.tudge.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter dated 6 August 2021 regarding the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (UANP).

I appreciate the Australian Government's response to the evolving COVID-19 events across Australia through its proposal to give effect to Clause 30 of the UANP.

I recognise that this process directly reflects what was implemented in 2020, and agree to the extension of the 2020 COVID-19 performance requirements and payments for 2021, and for Table 5 of the current UANP to be replaced by the new table. This process will support those States and Territories that are being impacted.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that future preschool arrangements support the best possible outcomes for Western Australian preschool children.

Yours sincerely

SUE ELLERY MLC MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2 3 AUG 2021



Hon John Gardner MP Member for Morialta

21ME1507

Hon Alan Tudge MP Minister for Education and Youth Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: alan.tudge.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the Australian Government's response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education 2018-2021 (UANP).

I understand from your correspondence that you are acting in line with the authority provided to you in Clause 30 of the UANP to seek approval from all parties to the agreement for a variation of the UANP, by extending the same COVID-19 provisions in the 2020 performance requirements and payments table to the 2021 program year.

I acknowledge this variation to the UANP, which will provide surety to all jurisdictions who implemented 'stay at home' orders during the 2021 census period (from 2 August to 6 August), allowing for performance to be assessed against 2019 results.

While this provision provides reassurances in the event of 20 per cent of the state population being subject to 'stay at home' requirements, it does not consider broader impacts beyond the census period.

South Australia went into lockdown the week prior to the national census so this provision will not apply, and it is unclear of the impact of the lockdown on enrolments in our non-government preschools and centre-based childcare services after the lockdown.

The Department for Education does not have visibility of how many parents may have unenrolled their children, so they did not have to pay childcare fees while their children were unable to attend, and whether they re-enrolled by the time of the census (critically the national census period from 2 August to 6 August 2021). Extensive unenrollments would adversely impact on South Australia's UANP performance targets.

If future data assessments indicate this was the case, South Australia will utilise Clause 26 to provide supplementary data or contextual information "*on the impacts of COVID-19-related disruptions in the 2020 and 2021 program years*" and will seek favourable consideration from Department for Education Skills and Employment.



Thank you for your accommodations in this time of continuing disruption. I look forward to continuing the progress on the development of the new Preschool Funding Agreement.

Yours sincerely

Hon John Gardner MP Minister for Education

2021 August 2021



Minister for Education Minister for Skills, Training and Workforce Growth Minister for Disability Services Minister for Children and Youth Minister for Hospitality and Events



Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place, Hobart GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia Phone: +61 3 6165 7794 Email: sarah.courtney@dpac.tas.gov.au

Our Ref: MIN21/25004

- 2 SEP 2021

Hon Alan Tudge MP Minister for Education and Youth alan.tudge.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister Tudge alan

Thank you for your letter of 6 August 2021 seeking my agreement to extend the performance requirements and payments under the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (UANP) applying in 2020 to the 2021 program year.

I understand that because of the continuing impact of COVID-19, and the restrictions that have been put in place in some States, for 2021 there will again be an impact on enrolment performance as measured under the UANP. I therefore appreciate the need to give effect to Clause 30 of the UANP, which provides for this situation.

I agree to the application of the same revised performance requirements and payments for 2020 to the 2021 program year, as set out in the table attached to your letter, if that is also the view of those States affected by the pandemic.

I welcome the flexible approach you are taking to preschool funding during these difficult times.

Hon Sarah Courtney MP Minister for Education



Yvette Berry MLA Deputy Chief Minister Minister for Early Childhood Development Minister for Education and Youth Affairs Minister for Housing and Suburban Development Minister for Women Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

The Hon Alan Tudge MP Minister for Education and Youth Parliament House Canberra <u>alan.tudge.mp@aph.gov.au</u>

Dear Minister Tudge, Alam

Thank you for your letter about the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (UANP).

I have reviewed the proposed changes to the current UANP and agree to replacing the current table and the extension of the 2020 COVID-19 performance requirements and payments to 2021.



Yvette Berry MIA Minister for Early Childhood Development



MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Parliament House State Square Darwin NT 0800 minister.moss@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146 Darwin NT 0801 Telephone: 08 8936 5532

The Hon Alan Tudge MP Minister for Education and Youth Minister.Tudge@dese.gov.au

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 6 August 2021, regarding the proposed variation of the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (UANP) to extend the COVID-19 protections for 2021.

The Northern Territory agrees to the extension of the 2020 COVID-19 performance requirements and payments to cover 2021, and for Table 5 of the current UANP to be replaced to include the reference to this extension.

I welcome the Australian Government's ongoing commitment in providing funding stability to support the delivery of quality preschool programs, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

AUREN MOSS 26/8/2021

