

New South Wales: Implementation Plan and Performance Report (Plan) - 2024

Preschool Reform Agreement – 2022 to 2025

This Plan covers:

- the implementation activities for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 (Tables 2 – 4);
- the performance report for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 (Annex 1 and 2).

PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. This Plan is a schedule to the Preschool Reform Agreement 2022 – 2025 (the Agreement) and should be read in conjunction with the Agreement. This Plan covers the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.
2. The Agreement reaffirms a national commitment to provide universal access to, and improved participation by, children in quality preschool programs in the year before full-time school (YBFS), with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and disadvantaged children. These programs should be delivered in a manner that meets the needs of children, parents and communities at a cost which does not present a barrier to participation.
3. The objective of the Agreement is to facilitate children’s early learning and development and transition to school by maintaining universal access to quality preschool programs for all children, improving participation in preschool programs and maximising the benefit of the preschool year by improving outcomes for children.
4. The Agreement supports the delivery of 15 hours a week, or 600 hours a year of quality preschool programs, by a degree qualified early childhood teacher for all children, regardless of the setting in which programs are delivered, in the year before school.
5. The Agreement has a focus on improving preschool participation and outcomes including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and disadvantaged children.
6. This Plan is the third of four annual implementation plans that build on each other to deliver the reforms outlined in the Agreement.

PART 2: TERMS AND DEFINITIONS OF THIS PLAN

7. This Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Minister for Early Childhood Education, and the State of New South Wales, represented by their Minister for Education and Early Learning.
8. As a schedule to the Agreement, the purpose of this Plan is to provide the public with an indication of how the State of New South Wales demonstrates its capacity to achieve and deliver the outcomes of the Agreement.
9. This Plan will cease on completion of the final performance reporting and the processing of final payments against the performance benchmarks or milestones set out within it for 2024.
10. The Commonwealth Government Department of Education and central agencies will develop a new template for Implementation Plans from 2025 in consultation with states and territories (States). The Commonwealth will require new and additional information in accordance with the Agreement and the Federal Funding Agreements Principles from 2025.
11. This Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Commonwealth and the responsible State Minister.
12. The Parties to this Plan do not intend any of the provisions to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to the Plan and its full implementation.

PART 3: FUNDING CONTRIBUTION

Commonwealth Funding Contributions

13. The Commonwealth's estimated total financial contribution to the State of New South Wales is set out in Tables 1a (program year) and 1b (financial year) of the Agreement.
14. However, the Commonwealth's financial contribution in individual program years is adjusted in accordance with the notes to Tables 1a and 1b of the Agreement. Consistent with the agreed adjustment process, the final amounts for 2024 are set out in **Table 1**.
15. **Table 1** does not include funding for children who repeat the YBFS. This funding will be calculated and paid in arrears per Appendix A.1 to the Agreement.
16. The Commonwealth contribution can only be moved between years with the agreement of the Commonwealth Minister. This would address extraordinary circumstances only and details would be agreed in the context, noting Commonwealth Funding Follows Child requires funding is expended in the year for which it is provided.

Table 1: 2024 Commonwealth financial contribution to the State of New South Wales

Category	Amount
YBFS Financial Contribution	\$134,542,013
Additional funding to maintain 2021 levels	\$6,279,583
Total Commonwealth financial contribution (excluding POM implementation funding)	\$140,821,596
Preschool Outcomes Measure (POM) Trial implementation support	Nil ¹
Total Commonwealth financial contribution (including POM implementation funding)	\$140,821,596

17. Table 2 shows how the State of New South Wales will use Commonwealth funding to meet the objectives of the Agreement. This may include strategies to facilitate preschool attendance by children in the year before full-time school.

Table 2: Program/activities objectives and outcomes

	Program/activity	Outputs	Objectives	Outcomes	Estimated Cth funds allocated
Program year funding (Commonwealth Funding Follows Child)					
1.	Start Strong for Community Preschools	Supporting the delivery of 600 hours of accessible quality preschool education for all children in the year before full time school, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, vulnerable and disadvantaged children, including in remote areas	To support quality uplift in preschool education, improve affordability and increase participation in the year before school.	All children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, vulnerable and disadvantaged children, have access to, and participate in, an affordable, quality early childhood education program.	\$41.0m
2.	Start Strong for Long Day Care				\$81.4m
3.	NSW public preschools				\$4.7m
4.	Start Strong Pathways	Delivering strategies and actions to support educational engagement of young children prior to preschool enrolment and to promote the importance of early	To support educational engagement of young children prior to preschool enrolment. To support pathways to preschool by	All children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, vulnerable and disadvantaged	\$7.5m

¹ As agreed with the Australian Government, NSW will claim the Commonwealth funding for Preschool Outcomes Measure Trial implementation support either in the second half of 2024 via an addendum to this Plan or in early 2025 via the 2025 Implementation Plan.

		childhood education to parents.	promoting the importance of early childhood education to parents and communities, including vulnerable and disadvantaged families who may otherwise not access it.	children, have access to, and participate in, an affordable, quality early childhood education program.	
Additional funding to maintain 2021 funding levels					
5.	Digital Hub	Implementation of systems and processes to enable preschool attendance data collection for community and NSW public preschools	Digital readiness of the preschool sectors to report attendance data for PRA reporting	Measurement and reporting of preschool attendance that meet PRA requirements and inform future strategies to increase attendance.	\$6.3m
6.	Start Strong	Refer 1 and 2 above	Refer 1 and 2 above	Refer 1 and 2 above	
Total all programs and activities²					\$140.8m

The Commonwealth Funding Follows Child allocation provided in Table 2 is based on the estimated number of children in each setting, calculated using the following methodology:

- The estimated number of children in each setting is derived by multiplying the proportion of children in each setting in 2022 with the 2024 YBFS population projection calculated by ABS.
- The proportion of children in each setting in 2022 is based on the Preschool Education Australia 2022 enrolment data (Source: PEA 2022, Table 28) and the 2022 YBFS population projection calculated by ABS. Children enrolled across multiple settings have been included within the standalone community preschools setting.

NSW's acquittal of Commonwealth Funding Follows Child will be against the funding allocation provided in Table 2 of this Plan.

State context and funding contributions

18. Context influencing the State of New South Wales delivery of preschool and the States' investment in preschool for 2024 is covered in this section.

- a. As per 2022 Preschool Education Australia, of the children in the YBFS, approximately 21 per cent are enrolled in community preschools, 3.5 per cent in

² Figures may not add due to rounding. These figures are based on the recent YBFS population projections estimated by the ABS and shared with NSW in January 2024.

public preschools and 60.5 per cent in long day care. A further 10 per cent are enrolled in more than one setting and 6 per cent are not enrolled. The long day care sector represents a larger share of preschool provision in NSW than in most other jurisdictions.

- b. The profile of preschool services NSW currently funds using both Commonwealth and NSW government funding includes:
 - i. 101 government-run preschools
 - ii. Approximately 735 community and mobile preschools
 - iii. Over 3,200 long day care services
- c. When signing the PRA in 2021, the NSW Government invested additional funds through the life of the Agreement to support implementation of the reforms, including funding for programs that aim to boost participation in preschool for children experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage.
- d. As part of the 2023-24 State Budget, NSW has maintained significant investment in the Early Childhood Education and Care sector and cost-of-living relief for families. This includes \$5 billion over 10 years to boost workforce participation, access and affordability via the Childcare and Economic Opportunity Fund. In addition, NSW has committed \$5.7 billion over 10 years to support implementation of universal preschool. An enhanced \$1.6 billion package of preschool fee relief over four years will also support affordability and will be delivered primarily through the Start Strong program. This investment is in addition to the Commonwealth Government funding of \$560 million over 4 years to deliver the Preschool Reform Agreement's goals of increasing preschool access, attendance and quality in the year before school.
- e. The Start Strong for Community Preschools program provides funding to deliver affordable quality preschool education for 3- to 5-year-old children enrolled in eligible community and mobile preschools in NSW, including fee relief of up to \$4,220 per child. The Start Strong for Long Day Care program provides funding to deliver affordable quality preschool education to children aged 3-to 5 years old enrolled in a preschool program in long day care services in NSW, including fee relief of up to \$2,110 per child for 4- and 5-year-olds and \$500 per child for 3-year-olds. The fee relief for 3-year-olds commences from January 2024 and is in addition to the Start Strong 3-year-old preschool trial that began in January 2023 (which included program payments for 3-year-olds).
- f. Preschools run by the NSW Department of Education receive funding to provide the equivalent of 5 days a fortnight of affordable preschool for all children.
- g. As per the 2023 NSW Department of Education Community Preschool Census data, 2023 saw a moderate increase in preschool enrolments in community and mobile preschools from the year prior, with a 2.0% increase overall. This equates to more than 48,000 preschool enrolments across NSW, an increase of more than 900 enrolments from 2022. Enrolment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children increased by 5.6% in 2023 to more than 5,300 enrolments. This was the highest

levels of enrolment of children in community and mobile preschools since implementation of the Start Strong Program.

Uses of funding

19. Noting the suggested uses for funding in the Agreement (cl 6, Appendix A), it is agreed that the implementation of funding follows the child at the sector level provides flexibility for all states to direct core funding for preschool in ways that meet jurisdictional needs including to drive equity outcomes and, provide for economies of scale from sector wide actions.

Data Sharing

20. The Commonwealth holds Child Care Subsidy (CCS) data which underpins the delivery of reforms, including the development, delivery and evaluation of policy initiatives to drive quality and participation outcomes in early childhood education in NSW. The Commonwealth and NSW have agreed to facilitate sharing of this data in accordance with appropriate legislation such as data privacy and Family Assistance Law and will work together to examine opportunities to establish consistent ongoing data sharing in 2024.

Implementation Project Funding Contributions

21. This section includes a State's summary of details of implementation project funding provided by the Commonwealth including funding amounts, purpose and the State's progress in implementing the project to date. States will be required to provide details of how Implementation Project Funding will be used to deliver reforms, including key performance indicators (KPIs) and timing. Details will be captured at **Table 3**.

Table 3: Overview of Implementation Project Funding for State of New South Wales - Statement of Allocations

Implementation Project (details)	Commonwealth funding	Actions (incl. deliverables)	KPI	Timing (incl. delivery schedule)
Building-up the attendance evidence base	\$1M	Commissioned research and behaviour analytics on attendance strategies	Report with actionable recommendations on effective strategies to improve attendance Program evaluation	December 2023 (Complete) December 2025
Boosting Preschool Attendance (Grants program)	\$5M	Delivered as grants/additional loading to extend preschool programs. Funding available to community preschools, long day cares and public preschools delivering 600-hour preschool programs. Services will be funded to deliver evidence-based attendance boosting initiatives, including those that improve community and family outreach, increase access to preschool, enhance cultural safety and inclusiveness of ECEC services and support educators working with children who have additional needs.	Evidence-based strategies developed. Grants provided to services to deliver attendance programs. Data collected to support evaluation of impact of attendance strategies. Learnings from programs assessed, to inform future attendance strategies.	Over 2024 and 2025 Over 2024 and 2025 Over 2024 and 2025 Interim report by January 2025 and Final report by December 2025 ³

³ While the project remains the same as the one indicated in 2022 and 2023 Implementation Plans, project delays have pushed the timelines by an additional year. NSW intends to carry over the \$6M one-off project implementation funding previously provided for this purpose.

		Services may also be assisted to collect data and build a baseline.		
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22. Consistent with the terms of the Agreement, Commonwealth funding for Implementation Projects was provided as part of the first milestone payment of the Agreement, when the Commonwealth and State agreed the 2022 Implementation Plan.

Preschool Outcomes Measure: Trial Implementation Support

23. This section outlines the ways in which States intend to spend Commonwealth funding made available to support the 2025 national applied trial of the Preschool Outcomes Measure (as outlined in Table 1) in accordance with *PRA Appendix A.2 Preschool Outcome Measure Trial*. This can include alignment activities or trial preparatory activities undertaken in 2024.
24. Commonwealth funding is being provided on the following basis:
- a. For States participating in the 2025 national applied trial by nominating the new national tool as their 'primary tool' – up to \$3.4 million.
 - b. For States participating in the 2025 national applied trial by nominating a tool that is well developed, validated but not yet trialled at scale as their 'primary tool' – a mid-point funding, more than \$1 million and up to \$3.4 million, to be negotiated bilaterally.
 - c. For States participating in the 2025 national applied trial by nominating an existing tool as their 'primary tool' – up to \$1 million.
25. Where a State is not in a position to finalise details for Trial Implementation Support in its 2024 Implementation Plan, an option to provide these details later to access the funding will be available. Details can be outlined in either an Addendum to the 2024 Implementation Plan, or in 2025 Implementation Plans, noting both options will require agreement by Commonwealth and State Ministers.
26. Implementation Plans will include high-level proposed expenditure categories for Trial Implementation Support funding, with detailed expenditure to be settled between officials in writing as trial participation arrangements are finalised and details become clearer.
27. When completing Table 4 below, States are requested to also outline State contributions, where relevant, including in-kind contributions. This reflects the fact that this is a shared reform agenda, and is required by Commonwealth Central Agencies for payments to be made.
- a. Further detail about cost sharing arrangements is at *PRA Appendix A.2 Preschool Outcome Measure Trial*, clause 12.

Table 4: Overview of Preschool Outcomes Measure Trial implementation support for State of New South Wales - Statement of Allocations

Activities (details)	Commonwealth funding	State contribution	Actions (incl. deliverables)	KPI	Timing (incl. delivery schedule)
Refer Table 5	To be decided	To be decided	Refer Table 5	Refer Table 5	Refer Table 5

28. As agreed with the Australian Government, NSW will claim the Commonwealth funding for Preschool Outcomes Measure Trial implementation support either in the second half of 2024 via an addendum to this Plan or in early 2025 via the 2025 Implementation Plan.

Risk Management

29. The State of New South Wales will actively identify, monitor and manage the risks associated with delivering outcomes under the Agreement, such as through maintaining their own risk management plan.

PART 4: REFORMS

30. As part of the Agreement, the State of New South Wales and the Commonwealth agree to work collaboratively to implement reforms outlined in the Additional terms in the Agreement.

31. The actions that the State of New South Wales will undertake to meet these commitments are detailed in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Planned Actions for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 for the State of New South Wales

Reform Element	Actions	Timing
Reform Element One: Implement Commonwealth Funding Follows Child		
<p>Details of how the Commonwealth Funding Follows Child at the setting level will be implemented in the State.</p>	<p>Measures to be undertaken in 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the 2024 Start Strong Program for Long Day Care and Community Preschools to support services to deliver quality affordable preschool education to children in the YBFS. Funding is distributed to eligible services, with the aim of incentivising preschool enrolment of 600 hours per year. Funding conditions and priority of access guidelines are also aimed to encourage enrolment of children from low-income families, children with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background and children with disability or additional needs. The 2024 program guidelines are detailed on the NSW Department of Education website. https://education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education/operating-an-early-childhood-education-service/grants-and-funded-programs/start-strong-funding • Continue to deliver funding to NSW public preschools, targeted towards supporting affordable and quality preschool education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, vulnerable, and disadvantaged children. • Continue to deliver the Start Strong Pathways program that helps provide educational supports for young children prior to preschool enrolment and promotes the importance of early childhood education to parents. 	<p>Throughout 2024</p>
Reform Element Two: Implement a new national preschool attendance measure		
<p>The approach to measure preschool enrolment and attendance and how data will be provided to the Commonwealth, in accordance with Appendix A.1.</p>	<p>Measures to be undertaken in 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2024, NSW will submit the current attendance data collected over the 2-week August Annual Preschool Census to ABS in the 2024 NPAC template.⁴ • NSW will extrapolate the 2-weeks of attendance data captured in August 2024 from the Annual Preschool Census to entire year to 	<p>2024</p>

⁴ In 2024, NSW will be implementing agreed transitional arrangements instead of the attendance measure in accordance with Appendix A.1

Reform Element	Actions	Timing
	<p>calculate the attendance performance of community, mobile and public preschools. NSW will share these calculations with Australian Government. Attendance performance of community, mobile and NSW Public preschools will be analysed along with Centre Based Day Care (CBDC) Term 2 2024 attendance performance (extrapolated to entire year) to set 2025 targets.</p>	
<p>Strategies to facilitate participation in preschool by children in the YBFS. For strategies relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, consistent with the Closing the Gap agreement, engage those communities and/or representative bodies in the design process.</p>	<p>Measures to be undertaken in 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Strong equity loadings for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and other priority cohorts to facilitate preschool participation and achieve equitable outcomes for these children. • 'Ninganah No More' Aboriginal languages program delivery – As part of the NSW Government's First Steps Strategy, the 'Ninganah No More' program has been redesigned to support the delivery of the Strategy's goals, including that of increasing the number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the year before school to 95% by 2025. • Aboriginal Families as Teachers (AFaT) – The AFaT program has been expanded under the First Steps Strategy to encourage services to work side by side with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to promote the importance of early childhood education within families and communities, including participation in a quality preschool program for 600 hours in the year before school. 	<p>Throughout 2024</p>
<p>Reform Element Three: Implement a new national preschool outcomes measure trial in 2025</p>		
<p>Plans for how the State will prepare for the 2025 national trial of the preschool outcomes measure, in accordance with Appendix A.2. (Note, reform element has been updated to reflect Appendix A.2. The actions a State plans to undertake should be consistent with the timeline agreed to by Education Ministers in July 2023).</p>	<p>Measures to be undertaken in 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW will undertake small scale testing of select formative assessment tool(s) to ensure NSW is well placed to meet the national requirements in 2025. • NSW undertakes to continue to work collaboratively with the Australian Government to support the development of the national learning progressions and the national tool. 	<p>Throughout 2024</p>
<p>Reform Delivery/Implementation</p>		

Reform Element	Actions	Timing
<p>State-specific data and implementation issues and strategies for how these will be overcome in the context of assessing performance under the Agreement.</p>	<p>Measures to be undertaken in 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout 2024 NSW will be working on the development of a new digital system to collect detailed attendance data required for the PRA. This represents a significant change journey for NSW community and school-based preschools that have low digital maturity. NSW will implement the new IT system and the new attendance data collection in a phased manner over 2024 to 2026 to ensure the transition is not disruptive for NSW services and it doesn't impose excessive workload burden on them. • Digital readiness planning to uplift digital capability of paper-based services. • The comparability of attendance data between 2024 and 2025 will be considered in setting attendance targets and assessment of performance under the PRA. This will also require attendance data to be re-baselined in 2025. 	<p>Throughout 2024</p>

PART 5: PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

32. Part 5 sets out the performance and reporting arrangements for the State of New South Wales for 2024.
33. The Commonwealth and State based collections or data sources and methodologies, agreed by both the Parties to this Plan, to measure progress against the performance milestones and benchmarks and targets in the Agreement, are set out in Part 5 of this Plan and Appendix B of the Agreement.
34. These data and performance specifications will be used to report State of New South Wales performance, except for the supplementary data agreed by the Parties to this Plan.
35. Supplementary data reports must contain the following details for each Performance Indicator (PI) where the method is not consistent with the Early Childhood Education and Care Minimal Data Set (NMDS):
 - a. PI calculation description (numerator, denominator, computation, and presentation)
 - b. numerator information (collection name and population description)
 - c. denominator information (collection name and population description)
 - d. calculation notes (including any information about how the PI is calculated)
 - e. methodology
 - f. rationale for supplementary data and reporting (including any additional information to explain how and why the specifications for the supplementary data differ from the specifications in the NMDS).
36. Clarification is provided below on how Definitions, (page of the Agreement refers) are applied in NSW and have been agreed between NSW and the Commonwealth in the case of 'Disadvantaged children' and 'Preschool program'
 - a. Noting the definition of preschool program in the Agreement, NSW and the Commonwealth confirm that:
 - i. Preschool program, including associated elements such as "delivery" and "early childhood teacher", will be interpreted in accordance with the National Quality Framework and where there is any inconsistency the NQF will be preferred.
 - ii. The Children (Education and Care Services) National Law allows the regulatory authority to approve waivers from certain elements and requirements of the National Quality Standard and Education and Care Services National Regulations.
 - b. Noting the definition of disadvantage in the Agreement, it is agreed that the SEIFA score is to be applied based on the address of the child.
37. NSW and the Commonwealth acknowledge that there are limited data sets for accurate child-level measures of disadvantage and both parties are committed to working together to improve this to support shared policy aims for universal preschool participation.

38. In 2024, States are required to provide baseline enrolment and attendance data in order to receive their full performance funding. Appendix A.1 and Appendix B to the Agreement set out the nationally agreed approach for data collection, provision, and reporting.

- a. Where a State has agreed with the Commonwealth transitional arrangements for 2024, these should be detailed in Table 5.

39. Table 6 covers information states are required to report annually to facilitate application of Appendix A.1 and Appendix B in 2024.

Table 6: State specific attendance and enrolment data considerations

Category	Required Information	
Attendance collection period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW will provide the attendance data collected over the August 2 week census period 29 July 2024 to 9 August 2024. The term 2 start and end date are Monday 29 April 2024 and Friday 5 July 2024 respectively. 	
Data provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW will submit its attendance collection and enrolment collection at the same time. The enrolment data will be provided in the NECECC template, and the August attendance data will be provided in the NPAC template. Following are the key dates for NSW data provision: 	
	7 Oct to 18 Oct	NSW to supply de-identified address lists to ABS for geocoding.
	14 Oct to 25 Oct	ABS returns geocoded address lists to NSW.
	21 Oct to 1 Nov	NSW to submit NECECC and NPAC templates simultaneously. Please note that the NPAC data will contain attendance data from the August period, as per the transitional arrangements agreed between NSW and the AG.
	18 Nov to 29 Nov	Cut-off for NSW data edits or re-supply to ABS (including data quality statements).
Child and state specific YBFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In NSW, a child becomes eligible for YBFS preschool if they turn 4 on or before 31st July. The compulsory school starting age in NSW is 6. 	
Children who repeat YBFS preschool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW intends to claim funding for children who have a second year in a YBFS preschool program ('repeaters') in 2024. NSW will provide information on state funded repeaters through the new 'state funded repeater' indicator in its August 2024 NECECC census submission for community and mobile preschools to ABS. NSW expects that the number of repeaters identified through this indicator will far exceed the 6% cap under the PRA. 	

Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary 2024

40. Performance Reporting for 2024 will capture progress against planned actions undertaken by the State of New South Wales as detailed at Table 5. States should provide sufficient detail in performance reporting to enable consideration of progress against actions and provide the Commonwealth with a draft prior to submission of the final report.

41. Performance reporting will be signed off by the Commonwealth Minister who will then inform the State of New South Wales Minister of the outcome through an exchange of letters.

Sign off

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the State of New South Wales by



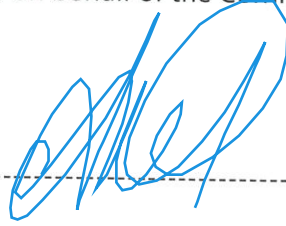
Signature **Date**

21 May 2024

The Hon Prue Car MP

Deputy Premier of NSW | Minister for Education and Early Learning

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by



Signature **Date**

17/6/24

The Hon Dr. Anne Aly MP

Minister for Early Childhood Education | Minister for Youth

Annex 1 – Funding Follows Child Acquittals

Commonwealth Funding Follows Child (CFFC) acquittals (updated by 31 March 2025)

Requirements for Commonwealth Funding Follows Child can be found in Appendix A to the PRA.

Examples of the types of program expenditure and subsidies that meet these requirements include:

- a. For enrolled children (in each setting):
 - i. Fee relief for families
 - ii. Provision of early childhood teachers to deliver preschool programs
 - iii. Quality improvements, including teacher recruitment and retention
 - iv. Program subsidies, including needs-based funding models or additional support
- b. For funding that cannot be attributed to any children enrolled in a quality preschool program:
 - i. Communication and outreach
 - ii. Enrolment and attendance strategies, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and disadvantaged children
 - iii. Specialised programs, without which children would have no access to preschool programs, or programs that meet their individual needs.

It is not the intention of Funding Follows the Child that per-child contributions are used to support:

- c. For enrolled children (in each setting):
 - i. Programs that cannot be attributed to settings
- d. For children who are not enrolled:
 - i. Universal program subsidies and fee relief for children enrolled in preschool programs.

States should provide an account of how CFFC is allocated across settings and describe their approach or methodology to derive their calculation for the number of children in the YBFS within a particular setting. States should also provide some explanation of their method for estimating the YBFS population which is not yet participating in preschool.

To acquit funding by setting, states will need to complete Tables 1, 2 and 3 below and submit these to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2025.

In Table 1, States should set out the number of children that attended preschool in their YBFS in each setting as determined using the methodology outlined in their implementation plans. They should also include the total funding spent in each setting.

Table 1. Summary of children and Commonwealth funding spent by setting

Setting	Number of Children attending preschool in the YBFS	Total Commonwealth funding spent in setting
CBDC	State calculation of [n] children in YBFS counted against setting.	\$N.Nm
Stand-alone	State calculation of [n] children in YBFS counted against setting.	\$N.Nm
School-based preschool	State calculation of [n] children in YBFS counted against setting.	\$N.Nm
Total Commonwealth Funding spent in all settings		\$N.Nm

In Table 2, states should provide a summary of expenditure by program for initiatives that were undertaken to promote enrolment and attendance in preschool in reference to clause 7 of Appendix A. Again, this should reflect the methodology described in the State’s implementation plan.

Table 2. Summary of expenditure of Commonwealth funding not attributed to children in the YBFS enrolled in preschool (children in the YBFS who are not enrolled)

Estimated number of children in the YBFS, for which funding cannot be attributed to children in in any setting	Total Commonwealth funding spent
State calculation of [n] children	\$N.Nm

In Table 3, States should acquit funding against programs outlined in Table 2 of Implementation Plans. Where a program runs across more than one setting, a row should be added for each setting. This table relates to clauses 6 and 7 of Appendix A which outline the purposes for which Commonwealth funding should be used.

Table 3. Commonwealth funding by program and setting

Item	Setting	Program description	Amount (\$)
<i>Auto #</i>	<i>e.g. School-based</i>	<i>Type a description of the program.</i>	<i>\$NNN,NNN</i>
1.	Choose an item.	Click or tap here to enter text.	\$0
			\$ 0.00

Additional funding to maintain 2021 levels is not required to be acquitted through this template. However, States may choose to acquit this funding in these tables if this cannot be separated. States may also choose to include state funding at their own discretion.

Progress update on actions agreed in the Implementation Plan

State and Territory reporting should provide updates on work agreed in Implementation Plans (Table 5) including implementation of attendance strategies in the following tables. The below table provides a template for the submission of this progress update.

Table 1: Reporting on delivery of Planned Actions for 2024 (update by 31 March 2025)

Element	Agreed Action	Progress Update
Reform Element One: Implement Commonwealth Funding Follows Child (CFFC)		
How Commonwealth funding follows child at the setting level will be implemented in the State	As per Table 5 in the Implementation Plan in 2024	A progress update on actions agreed at Table 5.
Reform Element Two: Implement a new national preschool attendance measure		
The approach to measure preschool enrolment and attendance and how data will be provided to the Commonwealth, in accordance with Appendix A.1.	As per Table 5 in the Implementation Plan in 2024	A progress update on actions agreed at Table 5.
Strategies to facilitate participation in preschool by children in the year before full-time school. For strategies relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, consistent with the Closing the Gap agreement, engage those communities and/or representative bodies in the design process.	As per Table 5 in the Implementation Plan in 2024	A progress update on actions agreed at Table 5.
Reform Element Three: Implement a new national preschool outcomes measure from 2025		
Plans for how the State will prepare for the 2025 national trial of the preschool outcomes measure, in accordance with Appendix A.2.	As per Table 5 in the Implementation Plan in 2024	A progress update on actions agreed at Table 5. States should also provide an update on the use of Commonwealth funds provided through Preschool Outcomes Measure: Trial Implementation Support.
Reform Delivery/Implementation		
State-specific data and implementation issues and strategies for how these will be overcome in the context of assessing performance under the Agreement.	As per Table 5 in the Implementation Plan in 2024	A progress update on actions agreed at Table 5.