

South Australia: Implementation Plan and Performance Report (Plan) - 2026

Preschool Reform Agreement – 2022 to 2027

This Plan covers:

- the implementation activities for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026 (Tables 2 – 4);
- the performance report for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026 (Annex 1 and 2).

PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. This Plan is a schedule to the Preschool Reform Agreement 2022 – 2027 (the Agreement) and should be read in conjunction with the Agreement. This Plan covers the period from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026.
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 fifth of six 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 South Australia, represented by their Minister for Education, Training and Skills.
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 South Australia 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 2026.
10. This Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Commonwealth and the responsible State Minister.
11. 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

12. The Commonwealth's estimated total financial contribution to the State of South Australia is set out in Tables 1a (program year) and 1b (financial year) of the Agreement.
13. 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 2026 are set out in **Table 1**.
14. **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.
15. 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: 2026 Commonwealth financial contribution to the State of South Australia

Category	Amount ¹
YBFS financial contribution	\$33,322,682
Additional funding to maintain 2021 levels	\$-
Total Commonwealth financial contribution (excluding project support funding)	\$33,322,682
Preschool Outcomes Measure: Project Support ²	To be included in addendum.
Total Commonwealth financial contribution (including project support funding)	TBC

¹Figures may not add due to rounding. These figures are based on the most recent YBFS population projections estimated by Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in January 2026.

²Preschool Outcomes Measure details will be confirmed following agreement of Appendix A.4 Preschool Outcomes Measure 2026-2027 and will be appended to this Implementation Plan once agreed.

16. **Table 2** shows how the State of South Australia 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.	Funding allocations to government and non-government preschool program providers	i. Provide additional funding to government preschools ii. Administer funding grant payments to approved long day care centres, non-government schools and non-government preschools iii. Identify enrolment and attendance gaps and responses to maximise participation	To facilitate children's early learning and development, by maintaining universal access to, and improving participation in, affordable, quality preschool programs for all children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children, including disadvantaged children, have access to an affordable, quality preschool program More children, including disadvantaged children, participate in an affordable, quality preschool program 	\$30,595,682
2.	Inclusion programs and projects aimed at improving enrolment and	Delivery of programs and enablers that target the	To facilitate children's early learning and development, and	i. All children, including disadvantaged children, have	\$2,727,000

	regular participation in preschool for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and disadvantaged children	participation in quality preschool programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and disadvantaged children	improving preschool participation and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and disadvantaged children	access to an affordable, quality preschool program i. More children, including disadvantaged children, participate in an affordable, quality preschool program ii. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in remote communities have access to preschool education.	
Total all programs and activities					\$33,322,682

In order to calculate the number of children in each setting to whom Commonwealth Funding Follows Child will be directed, South Australia will continue to collect preschool enrolment data from government preschools, approved long day care services, non-government schools and non-government preschools. Enrolment data is used for the purposes of calculating staffing allocations for government preschools and grant subsidies payable to non-government preschool providers. South Australia has a robust process in place to ensure that children who access multiple settings are not accessing more than 15 hours of funded preschool, which includes reviewing enrolment and attendance data and addressing any excess claims.

State context and funding contributions

17. Context influencing the State of South Australia delivery of preschool and the States' investment in preschool for 2026 is covered in this section.
18. The Office for Early Childhood Development is the steward for the early childhood system in South Australia and is responsible for:
 - a. Expanding universal early childhood service system
 - b. Lifting the quality of preschool programs
 - c. Delivering more support delivered for children who need it most
 - d. Creating deep system and service connections
 - e. Embedding Closing the Gap priority reforms in early childhood

19. The South Australian Department for Education (department) is the agency responsible for the delivery of universal state government preschool in South Australia available for all children in their year before full time school, and Aboriginal children and Children in Care from three years of age.
20. In 2026, South Australia will continue with the following approaches to support the delivery of 600 hours a year of quality preschool programs to all children in the YBFS regardless of the setting:
 - a. Increased service provision in existing preschool services: Children enrolled in one of the over 380 department operated preschools have an increased annual provision from 480 hours to 600 hours of preschool in their year before full-time school. Department operated preschools are provided with additional staffing allocations and other resourcing to enable the delivery of 600 hours of preschool.
 - b. South Australia also applies PRA funding for programs and subsidies with an emphasis on participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and disadvantaged children. In department operated preschools and services, inclusion and support programs are provided to support access to preschool for children with a disability. Other programs include the Hospital Based Preschool program and Aboriginal Children with Impaired Hearing Support program.
 - c. Long Day Care services and non-government schools and preschools are provided with funding subsidies on an application basis to assist with offsetting the cost of a university qualified early childhood teacher to deliver a preschool program to children in their year before school not accessing a department preschool.
 - d. From 2026, the business functions for partnering with non-government services delivering preschool programs in South Australia has transferred from the department to the Office for Early Childhood Development (OEC) as part of the state's early childhood reforms.
 - e. In 2026, the OEC is providing two distinct preschool program funding and contracting models for non-government services, which incorporate PRA funding for 4-year olds. These include:
 - i. The new Flying Start 3- and 4-year-old preschool program; and
 - ii. The original 4-year-old only funding model for non-government services to continue delivering a preschool program to YBFS children if they are not an approved Flying Start partner service.
 - f. Over four hundred (400) non-government early childhood education and care services have an approved funding agreement to deliver 600 hours of quality preschool programs to children in the YBFS, including one organisation that provides a multi modal remote delivery preschool program for children residing in very remote locations in South Australia.
 - g. Under the original 4-year-old only PRA funded model, non-government services funded to deliver preschool programs have access to targeted additional PRA

funded subsidies to reduce the cost of delivering preschool to children of families from disadvantaged backgrounds and for Aboriginal children that directly promotes enrolment in preschool and regular attendance. Other subsidies are available for non-government services for children with a disability to provide access to and enable regular participation in the preschool program.

- h. The Flying Start funding model provides additional funded program streams for non-government services and department operated preschools including:
 - i. Targeted Child Subsidy for Aboriginal Children - a Targeted Child Subsidy is available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in their YBFS.
 - ii. Preschool Boost - available to all Flying Start partner services to do more to address developmental vulnerability. Partner services can use this funding to purchase allied health services and other quality programs aimed at addressing developmental vulnerability.
 - iii. Preschool Plus program (30 hour program) - a targeted early intervention program that funds additional hours of preschool for cohort of 3- and 4-year-old children at greatest risk of developmental vulnerability.
 - iv. Outreach - this funded program provides partner services operating in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage in South Australia with access to additional resources and targeted supports to improve the enrolment and attendance of 3- and 4-year-old preschool children.

The South Australian government's total annual expenditure on preschool services over the past 10 financial years is made available in the annual publication of the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services: Early Childhood Education and Care section data tables (refer table 3A.3). The Commonwealth government's contribution through the former National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education agreements and the Preschool Reform Agreement is also published in the data tables (refer table 3A.4).

21. Some of the early reform initiatives being implemented, which complement the PRA objective of universal access to affordable, quality preschool programs for all children in the year before full time school, and improved participation and outcomes, include:

Reform Initiative
Roll-out of up to 15 hours of quality 3-year-old preschool programs progressively from 2026 to 2032.
Extra support for vulnerable children, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the creation of integrated hubs to be co-designed with local communities, and • additional universal and targeted funding to support 3-and 4-year old children at risk of developmental vulnerability (refer 19.h. above).
Infrastructure investment for government and non-government settings across the state to deliver new and expanded early childhood facilities where they're needed, providing all South Australian children with access to 2 years of quality preschool by 2032.

Implementation of South Australia's Early Childhood Workforce Strategy to grow and support the early childhood workforce, including an early childhood workforce development fund and support for quality teaching and learning.

Undertaking a genuine co-design process with Aboriginal communities to retain and increase the benefits Aboriginal children get from existing 3-year-old preschool.

Data Sharing and Transparency

22. The Commonwealth and the State of South Australia reaffirm their commitment to using their best endeavours to share data between jurisdictions as a default position, where it can be done securely, safely, lawfully and ethically. This position is supported by the [Intergovernmental Agreement on data sharing between Commonwealth and State and Territory governments](#) and the Data Sharing Strategy endorsed by the Australian Education Senior Officials Committee.
23. Sharing of data in relation to the Agreement may occur for the purposes of research, statistical analysis or policy development that is in line with the stated objective of the Agreement to maximise the benefit of the preschool year by improving outcomes for children. Linkage and any subsequent publication of the results of linked data would only occur with the express consent of all parties. No outputs or outcomes of the research, statistical analysis or policy development would be used for determining payments under this Agreement.
24. The Commonwealth holds Child Care Administrative data. The Commonwealth undertakes to facilitate sharing of this data in accordance with appropriate legislation such as the Privacy Act 1988 and legislation underpinning the Child Care Subsidy. This may occur:
 - a. on an ongoing basis as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Secure Environment for Analysing Data (SEAD) platform once development has concluded;
 - b. on an ongoing basis as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA); or
 - c. via a data sharing agreement negotiated with the Commonwealth.
25. The State of South Australia holds data in relation to state-funded preschool programs as part of the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection and National Preschool Attendance Collection. The State of South Australia undertakes to facilitate sharing of this data through:
 - a. the Australian Bureau of Statistics Person Level Integrated Data Asset for agreed projects that maximise the benefits of the year before full-time school (preschool) and early childhood education care to improve outcomes for children.
26. The Commonwealth may publish details regarding funding under the Agreement for the State of South Australia following completion of the final milestone for the program year.

Implementation Project Funding Contributions

27. This section details implementation project funding provided by the Commonwealth 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 South Australia - Statement of Allocations (as per 2022 Implementation Plan)

Implementation Project (details)	Commonwealth funding	Actions (incl. deliverables)	KPI	Timing (incl. delivery schedule)
Funding follows the Child – projects to support the rapid deployment of funding to non-government providers, by investing in improved systems and processes	\$1.62m	1) Reform paper-based non-government preschool funding application process to online form 2) Back-end data collection systems for non-government services reviewed and enhanced 3) Grant/payment management system replaced 4) Develop and implement new non-government services funding arrangements/ agreements for 2023 – 2025	1) Paper based application process replaced 2) Non-government services payment timelines reduced 3a) Procurement approach in place 3b) Non-government services payment timelines reduced. 4) New non-government funding arrangements/ agreements implemented	Completed in 2022 Completed in 2022/23 Completed in 2024 Completed in 2025 Completed in 2023
Attendance strategies and measurement - IT systems development and enhancement projects to increase the quality and quantity of attendance measurement.	\$2.38m	1) Replace manual parent sign in/out with electronic process for government preschool data administration systems and explore opportunities for any non-government preschools not	1) Electronic sign in/out system implemented	Improvement to administration systems completed in 2025.

		<p>approved for Child Care Subsidy (CCS)</p> <p>2) Enhance existing government data administration systems for attendance measurement.</p> <p>3) Enhance existing Non-Government Preschool Data System (NGPDS)</p>	<p>Government and non-government preschool enrolment and attendance data complies with agreed enrolment and attendance measurement requirements</p>	<p>Completed in 2024.</p>
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28. 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: Project Support

29. Table 4, below, agrees:

- a. Commonwealth project funding made available for 2026 to support participation in the Preschool Outcomes Measure, in particular the pilot of the national tool; and
 - b. the ways in which States intend to spend this Commonwealth funding in 2026.
30. When completing Table 4, States are requested to also outline State contributions, where relevant, including in-kind contributions.
31. If necessary, Table 4 maybe agreed in an addendum attached to this Implementation Plan following Ministerial agreement to the PRA Appendix A.4 *Preschool Outcomes Measure 2026-2027*. If an addendum is needed, this should be noted in the table.
32. A clearly labelled copy of Table 4 may be inserted below to agree, in 2026, Commonwealth funding made available for 2027, and the ways in which States intend to spend that funding in 2027.

Table 4: Overview of Preschool Outcomes Measure Project Support for State of South Australia - Statement of Allocations

Activities (details)	Commonwealth funding	State contribution	Actions (incl. deliverables)	KPI	Timing (incl. delivery schedule)
to be included in addendum	to be included in addendum	to be included in addendum	to be included in addendum	to be included in addendum	to be included in addendum

Risk Management

33. The State of South Australia 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

34. As part of the Agreement, the State of South Australia and the Commonwealth agree to work collaboratively to implement reforms outlined in the Additional terms in the Agreement.
35. The actions that the State of South Australia will undertake to meet these commitments are detailed in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Planned Actions for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026 for the State of South Australia

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>South Australia already has in place a funding mechanism that facilitates excellent state-wide coverage to provide preschool access to all children in the year before school which limited the changes required to implement Commonwealth funding follows child at the setting level.</p> <p>Measures to be undertaken in 2026: Plan for, and/or actions to be taken on how funding will be deployed to benefit children in each setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Continue funding mechanisms in place that support the provision of early childhood teachers to deliver preschool programs and Inclusive Preschool Programs in department preschools. • Action: Continue current funding mechanisms in place that support the provision of preschool programs delivered in non-government services and commence implementation of the Flying Start funding initiative. <p>Initiatives that promote enrolment and attendance in preschool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Continue an annual preschool enrolment promotion campaign that is both universal and targeted using social media with a focus on disadvantaged cohorts. • Action: Continue targeted child subsidies accessible to non-government services as an incentive to promote enrolment and regular attendance in preschool to children who may not otherwise have enrolled. • Action: modernise the delivery of sessional preschool in government settings to respond to family needs. <p>Plan to acquit, or plan to establish acquittal mechanism</p>	<p>Throughout 2026</p>

Reform Element	Actions	Timing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action: Update established processes that enable the production of a consolidated acquittal report utilising YBFS enrolment data and relevant YBFS preschool program expenditure sourced from the OECD and the department. <p>Mechanism to provide transparency of Commonwealth contribution to stakeholders, including when and how payments will be made</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action: Publish information on the amount of the Commonwealth contribution and the quantum of preschool hours on the relevant webpage. 	
Reform Element Two: Implement a new national preschool attendance measure		
<p>Agreed details of preschool enrolment and attendance targets for 2026, to be measured using data provided to the Commonwealth, in accordance with Appendix A.1.</p> <p>For 2026 targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 will be used as the baseline to measure 2026 performance. attendance targets will be measured according to the formula 'at least x% of children attend at least y% of 600 hours', where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'y' is the agreed proportion of 600 hours; and 'x' is any improvement on the baseline year's proportion of YBFS children attending agreed proportion of 'y' hours. enrolment targets are any improvement on the 2025 baseline figure. <p>Targets will be set <i>and assessed</i> with reference to the PRA Appendix A, clause 15 and clause 21 and Appendix A.1 clauses 4.15, 4.16 and the principles set out in Appendix A.1 section 5, noting the Parties acknowledge:</p>	<p>Agreed baseline year 2025</p> <p>Work towards meeting the following agreed targets for 2026:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement from the 2025 baseline proportion of children in the year before full-time school (x%) who attend a preschool program(s) for 70% of 600 hours (420 hours). Improvement from the 2025 baseline proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the year before full-time school who are enrolled in a preschool program(s) for 600 hours. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement from the 2025 baseline proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the year before full-time school (x%) who attend a preschool program(s) for 70% of 600 hours (420 hours). Improvement from the 2025 baseline proportion of disadvantaged children in the year before full-time school who are enrolled in a preschool program(s) for 600 hours. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement from the 2025 baseline proportion of disadvantaged children in the year before full-time school (x%) who attend a preschool program(s) for 70% of 600 hours (420 hours). <p>Measures to be undertaken in 2026</p>	<p>2026 performance data scheduled for delivery in March- April 2027</p>

Reform Element	Actions	Timing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attendance in preschool programs is not compulsory and influenced by parental choice and other factors the attendance measure is based on an experimental data collection and may be subject to year-to-year volatility a range of sources of supplementary data may need to be provided and considered in good faith to properly assess performance against attendance targets capacity to demonstrate year-on-year improvements (x) reduces the greater the proportion of children attending at the target attendance rate (y) inclusion of targets within 2026 Implementation Plans do not constitute agreement to those same targets in future years or for future agreements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action: Undertake and provide customer support to preschool service providers to collect, validate and report to the ABS on in-scope preschool enrolment and attendance data in accordance with the required specifications and timelines (refer Part 5). 	<p>Throughout 2026</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 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action: Continue contribution of funding for programs that facilitate preschool attendance in department operated preschools including the Hospital Based Preschool, Inclusive Education Support Program, Aboriginal Children with Hearing Impairment Support Program and Inclusive Preschool Programs. Action: Implement improvements in data collection and analysis across the breadth of the preschool delivery sectors, to support policy and operational decision making to maximise enrolment and attendance. 	<p>Throughout 2026</p>
<p>Reform Element Three: Implement a new national preschool outcomes measure</p>		
<p>Participate in activities that continue to support outcomes measurement</p>	<p>In good faith, participate in: the negotiation and agreement of Appendix A.4; activities as agreed through Appendix A.4; and the Preschool Outcomes Measure Working Group as required.</p> <p>Further details will be provided in an addendum to this Implementation Plan, following agreement to Appendix A.4.</p>	<p>TBC</p>

Reform Element	Actions	Timing
Reform Delivery/Implementation		
<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>A State-specific data issue for South Australia relates to the impact that a mid-year enrolment intake has on the ABS methodologies to provide an accurate estimate of the YBFS population each year, and for reporting on YBFS preschool enrolments. The YBFS population estimate is used to calculate the Commonwealth's Funding Follows Child contribution and the YBFS preschool enrolment counts are used for PRA performance assessment.</p> <p>Measures to be undertaken in 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: The OECD will continue to collaborate with the ABS to allow for any refinement to the ABS customised YBFS population estimate methodology and YBFS preschool enrolment adjustment factor that mitigate the impact of the mid-year enrolment intake issues for South Australia. 	<p>July to December 2026</p>

PART 5: PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

36. Part 5 sets out the performance and reporting arrangements for the State of South Australia for 2026.
37. 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.
38. These data and performance specifications will be used to report State of South Australia performance, except for the supplementary data agreed by the Parties to this Plan.
39. 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 Minimum 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).
40. From 2024, States were 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 2026, these should be detailed in Table 5 and 6.
41. Table 6 covers information states are required to report annually to facilitate application of Appendix A.1 and Appendix B in 2026.

Table 6: State specific attendance and enrolment data considerations

Category	Required Information
Attendance collection period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Australia will provide Term 2 2026 attendance data. • The standard term date for department operated preschools for Term 2 2026 in South Australia is from Monday 27 April to Friday 3 July 2026.
Data provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Australia will provide the following submissions to the ABS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ de-identified address lists to ABS for geocoding the Term 2 2026 attendance data file and the Term 3 2026 enrolment data file on or before 16 October 2026. ○ the Term 2 2026 attendance data and the Term 3 2026 enrolment data as two separate files to the ABS on or before 30 October 2026.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ re-supply of Term 2 2026 attendance data file and the Term 3 2026 enrolment data file as required by 27 November 2026 ○ data quality statement by 27 November 2026.
Child and state specific YBFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department operated preschool services and most non-government preschool providers have the following age criteria for entry into YBFS preschool. • Children who turn four years old: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ before 1 May 2026 are eligible to start preschool at the beginning of 2025 ○ from 1 May 2026 to 31 October 2026 can commence preschool at the start of Term 3 2026. • Aboriginal children and children in care can start in a department operated preschool services after they turn three years of age and are eligible for YBFS preschool in accordance with the eligibility criteria above. • South Australia will continue to consult with the ABS to satisfactorily resolve impacts that the mid-year enrolment intake is having on calculating the YBFS population estimates and to implement a revised YBFS age-based eligibility criteria for counting preschool enrolments and attendances.
Children who repeat YBFS preschool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South Australia department does not permit within its enrolment policies and procedures for children to repeat their YBFS preschool entitlement. A second year of YBFS preschool would only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. • Non-government services funded for preschool are ineligible to receive funding for children repeating YBFS preschool. • For these reasons, South Australia is not intending to claim funding for children who have a second year in a YBFS preschool program ('repeaters').

Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary 2026

- 42. Performance Reporting for 2026 will capture progress against planned actions undertaken by the State of South Australia 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.
- 43. Performance reporting will be signed off by the Commonwealth Minister who will then inform the State of South Australia 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 South Australia by



23/4/26

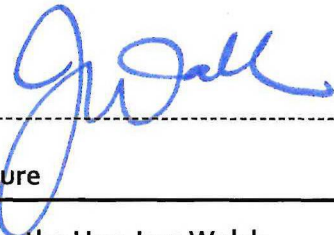
Signature

Date

The Hon Lucy Hood MP

Minister for Education, Training and Skills

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by



13/5/26

Signature

Date

Senator the Hon Jess Walsh

Minister for Early Childhood Education | Minister for Youth

Annex 1 – Funding Follows Child Acquittals

Commonwealth Funding Follows Child (CFFC) acquittals (updated by 31 March 2027)

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 2027.

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 2026 (update by 31 March 2027)

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 2026		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 2026		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 2026		A progress update on actions agreed at Table 5.
Reform Element Three: Implement a new national preschool outcomes measure			
How the State will work collaboratively with the Commonwealth to progress the preschool outcomes measure.	As per Table 5 in the Implementation Plan in 2026		A progress update on actions agreed at Table 5.
Reform Delivery/Implementation			

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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 2026		A progress update on actions agreed at Table 5.
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