

South Australia: Implementation Plan and Performance Report (Plan) - 2025

Preschool Reform Agreement – 2022 to 2025

This Plan covers:

- the implementation activities for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 (Tables 2 – 4);
- the performance report for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 (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 2025 to 31 December 2025.
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 fourth 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 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 2025.
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 2025 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: 2025 Commonwealth financial contribution to the State of South Australia

Category	Amount ¹ (millions)
YBFS Financial Contribution	\$29.130696
Additional funding to maintain 2021 levels	\$-
Total Commonwealth financial contribution (excluding implementation funding)	\$29.130696
Preschool Outcomes Measure: Trial implementation support	\$1.0
Total Commonwealth financial contribution (including implementation funding)	\$30.130696

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 2025.

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 (millions)
Program year funding (Commonwealth Funding Follows Child)					
1.	Funding allocations to government and non-government preschool program providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Continue provision of additional funding to government preschools ii. Continue to administer funding grant payments to approved child care centres, non-government schools and non-government preschools 	To facilitate children's early learning and development, by maintaining universal access to, and improving participation in, affordable, quality preschool programs for all children	All children, including disadvantaged children, have access to, and participate in, an affordable, quality preschool program	\$26.293132
2.	Inclusion programs and projects aimed at improving enrolment and regular participation in preschool for Aboriginal and Torres Strait	Delivering programs targeting the participation in quality preschool programs for Aboriginal and	To facilitate children's early learning and development, and improving preschool participation and outcomes	i. All children, including disadvantaged children, have access to, and participate in, an affordable, quality	\$2.837564

	Islander children, and disadvantaged children	Torres Strait Islander children, and disadvantaged children	for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and disadvantaged children	preschool program. All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in remote communities have access to preschool education. ii. Continue an annual preschool promotion campaign that is both universal and targeted using social media.	
Total all programs and activities					\$29.130696

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.

As part of the department's Funding Follows Child implementation projects, a preschool enrolment report has been developed which allows for the cumulative reporting of YBFS preschool enrolments by setting over the calendar year (as per the actions detailed in Reform Element One: Implement Commonwealth Funding Follows Child of Table 5).

State context and funding contributions

17. Context influencing the State of South Australia's delivery of preschool and the States' investment in preschool for 2025 is covered in this section.
18. The South Australian Department for Education (department) is the agency responsible for the delivery of universal state government preschool in South Australia for all children in their year before full time school, and Aboriginal children and Children in Care from three years of age.
19. The department is also responsible for the implementation of the PRA up until 30 September 2025, which will then transition to the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD). In 2025 South Australia (SA) 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. SA 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. Child care operators 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. Over three hundred (300) non-government early childhood education and care services have an approved grant 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 SA.
 - d. Non-government services funded for preschool also have access to targeted additional subsidies to offset 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.
20. The South Australian government's total annual expenditure on preschool services over the past 10 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. Complementary to the PRA's objectives of improving outcomes for children, the Government of South Australia commissioned a Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care in South Australia, with the final report being handed down in August 2023. The Government of South Australia has committed to action on all recommendations. As recommended by the Royal Commission, the OECD has been established to steward the early childhood development system in South Australia with a mandate to reduce the number of children commencing school developmentally vulnerable.
22. Some of the early reform initiatives to be implemented, which complement 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
Up to 15 hours of quality preschool programs available for 3-year-olds progressively from 2026 to 2032.
Infrastructure investment to expand and enhance quality government and non-government settings across the state to welcome 3-year-olds.
Initiatives to grow and support the early childhood workforce, including establishment of an early childhood workforce development fund and support for quality teaching and learning.
Extra support for vulnerable children, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivery of 30-hours of preschool per week for 2000 children at greatest risk of developmental vulnerability at age 3 and 4 • the creation of integrated hubs to be co-designed with local communities • funding for early childhood education services to purchase allied health services and other quality programs through the Preschool Boost funding program.
Development of an Outreach Program to lift preschool enrolment and attendance of 3- and 4-year-olds in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage in South Australia.
Undertaking a genuine co-design process with Aboriginal communities to retain and increase the benefits Aboriginal children get from existing 3-year-old preschool.
Trialing preschool out of hours care (known as 'Kindy Care') in government-operated preschool commenced from July 2024.

Implementation Project Funding Contributions

23. 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 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	<p>1) Reform paper-based non-government preschool funding application process to online form</p> <p>2) Back-end data collection systems for non-government services reviewed and enhanced</p> <p>3) Grant/payment management system replaced</p> <p>4) Develop and implement new non-government services funding arrangements/</p>	<p>1) Paper based application process replaced</p> <p>2) Non-government services payment timelines reduced</p> <p>3a) Procurement approach in place</p> <p>3b) Non-government services payment timelines reduced.</p> <p>4) New non-government funding arrangements/</p>	<p>Completed in 2022</p> <p>Completed in 2022/23</p> <p>Procurement for an IT implementation partner was released to market in December 2024, with evaluation currently underway.</p> <p>Preliminary payment management functionality is proposed to be developed to support the 2026 funding cycle.</p>

		agreements for 2023 – 2025	agreements implemented	Funding arrangements for 2023- 2025 implemented.
<p>Attendance strategies and measurement - IT systems development and enhancement projects to increase the quality and quantity of attendance measurement.</p>	\$2.38m	<p>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 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>1) Electronic sign in/out system implemented</p> <p>2),3) Government and non-government preschool enrolment and attendance data complies with agreed enrolment and attendance measurement requirements</p>	<p>1) Electronic sign in/out system project replaced with new ICT project commencing Feb'25 to improve the integrity and efficiency of enrolment and attendance data administration for department operated preschools.</p> <p>Non-government preschools not approved for CCS were offered and provided with a funding grant in 2024 to procure CCS approved third-party software</p> <p>2),3) Department IT systems projects were implemented in 2024 to deliver new National Preschool Attendance Collection requirements.</p>

24. 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

25. 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.
26. 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.
27. Where a state was not in a position to finalise details for Trial Implementation Support in its 2024 Implementation Plan, they should provide these details in 2025 Implementation Plans to access funding.
28. Implementation Plans will include high-level proposed expenditure categories for Trial Implementation Support funding.
29. When completing Table 4 below, States are requested to also outline State contributions, where relevant, including in-kind contributions.

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

Activities (details)	Commonwealth funding	State contribution	Actions (incl. deliverables)	KPI	Timing (incl. delivery schedule)
Trial of the Early Years Assessment and Learning Tool (EYALT) in South Australia	\$1.0m	The department are contributing staff to provide expertise for the national Preschool Outcomes Measure Working Group and staff for the project governance and leadership of the EYALT trial planning, design and implementation.	1) Up to 250 teachers will be provided with training, support and access to the EYALT 2) Up to 250 teachers will undertake the trial of the EYALT across a proportionately representative mix of government and non-government services 3) User evaluation survey completed by teachers	1) Teachers have been trained & have access to EYALT 2) Teachers have completed a trial of the EYALT 3) Teachers have completed the user evaluation survey	1) July 2025 2) July 2025 to Aug 2025 3) Sep 2025

30. Commonwealth funding for Preschool Outcomes Measure: Trial Implementation Support will be provided on the basis of the information provided above when the Commonwealth and State agree the 2025 Implementation Plan.

Risk Management

31. 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

32. 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.

33. 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 2025 to 31 December 2025 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>Measures to be undertaken in 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>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 including targeted subsidies to non-government services for children with disabilities and Inclusive Preschool Programs in department preschools. <p>Initiatives that promote enrolment and attendance in preschool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: South Australia will 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 as an incentive to promote enrolment and regular attendance in preschool to children who may not otherwise have enrolled. • Action: Continue the trial of preschool out of hours care ('Kindy Care') for 20 department operated preschool services to facilitate improvements in accessibility to and participation in preschool. <p>Plan to acquit, or plan to establish acquittal mechanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Continue process established in 2024 using the YBFS enrolment data summary report combined with the Funding 	<p>Throughout 2025</p>

Reform Element	Actions	Timing
	<p>Follows Child resource allocations and grant payments by setting that facilitates the production of an acquittal report.</p> <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: Information on the amount of the Commonwealth contribution and the quantum of preschool hours is published on the department’s Preschool and Kindergarten enrolment webpage. • Action: The department has advised non-government preschool providers and stakeholder associations of the Commonwealth contribution as part of correspondence from the Minister on the 2025 PRA grant funding arrangements. • Action: Information on when and how payments will be made are published on the department’s non-government preschool service provider funding webpage. • Action: The department’s Parent Disclaimer Form has been updated to include reference to the Commonwealth contribution for 2025. 	
Reform Element Two: Implement a new national preschool attendance measure		
<p>Agree details of preschool enrolment and attendance targets for 2025, to be measured using data provided to the Commonwealth, in accordance with Appendix A.1 in 2024 (to set the baseline) and 2025 (to measure performance against the baseline).</p> <p>Appendix A.1 to the PRA agrees attendance targets will be expressed according to the formula ‘at least x% of children attend at least y% of 600 hours’.</p> <p>The PRA agreed attendance targets that are being introduced for the first time in 2025 will be negotiated bilaterally in good faith once national baseline data is available (refer pg.10, note 4 of the PRA and clause 15,</p>	<p>Work towards meeting the following agreed targets for 2025:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improvement from the 2024 baseline proportion of children in the year before full-time school (x%) who attended a preschool program(s) for 70% of 600 hours (420 hours). 2.1 Improvement from the 2024 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. 2.2 Improvement from the 2024 baseline proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the year before full-time school (x%) who are attending a preschool program(s) for 70% of 600 hours (420hours). 	<p>Detailed 2024 baseline data scheduled for delivery in May-June 2025</p> <p>2025 performance data expected delivery March-April 2026</p>

Reform Element	Actions	Timing
<p>Appendix A), and in accordance with the guiding principles PRA Appendix A.1.</p> <p>However, noting enrolment data in previous years was generally available in late March, delivery of 2024 baseline attendance data in May-June 2025 was not (and could not be) anticipated when the PRA was signed in 2022, before the details of the attendance data collection arrangements had been worked through multilaterally.</p> <p>In this context, to limit delays to the agreement of this IP and payment of the associated funding allocation attendance targets for 2025 may be agreed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a proportion (y%) of 600 hours; • with levels of 'x' for each Performance Indicator becoming known when 2024 data becomes available (noting this is expected to occur after this Implementation Plan is agreed); and • <i>any improvement</i> in 2025 on the baseline level of 'x' in 2024 may be taken as meeting Target (a) as set out in the PRA to receive full funding under the specific Performance Indicator. <p>If a jurisdiction prefers to wait until baseline data is available – any improvement in 2025 on the baseline specified value of 'x' in 2024, against the agreed 'y' value may be taken as meeting Target (a) as set out in the PRA to received full funding under the specific Performance Indicator. The ABS expects to provide custom tables to test settings of this kind in early June 2025.</p> <p>Similarly, noting enrolment targets will also be measured according to a new YBFS methodology, any improvement in 2025 on the baseline proportion (x%) of children who were enrolled for 600 hours in 2024 will be taken as meeting Target (a).</p>	<p>3.1 Improvement from the 2024 baseline proportion of disadvantaged children in the year before full-time school who are enrolled in a preschool program(s) for 600 hours.</p> <p>3.2 Improvement from the 2024 baseline proportion of disadvantaged children in the year before full-time school who are attending a preschool program(s) for 70% of 600 hours (420 hours).</p> <p>Measures to be undertaken 2025</p> <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>April to December 2025</p>

Reform Element	Actions	Timing
<p>This is a transitional measure for the first year of targets under new data collection arrangements and should not be considered as setting a precedent for future years.</p> <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attendance in preschool programs is not compulsory and influenced by parental choice and other factors • attendance targets have been set in advance of understanding the outcomes from the 2024 preschool attendance collection • the attendance measure is based on a new data collection and may be subject to year-to-year volatility; this volatility may be driven by a number of factors such as higher than average levels of illness and changes in the mix of provision within a jurisdiction (i.e. between school based / community preschool / CBDC) • 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 diminish the greater the proportion of children attending at the target attendance rate • inclusion of targets within 2025 Implementation Plans do not constitute agreement to those same targets in future years or for future agreements. 		
<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 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: Continue employment of an Early Years Engagement Officer to consult with, and work alongside, preschool teachers and Anangu educators located in Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands schools with a school-based 	<p>Throughout 2025</p>

Reform Element	Actions	Timing
	<p>preschool, to deliver culturally responsive arts/literacy activities to increase regular attendance of preschool aged children.</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, and Aboriginal Children with Hearing Impairment Support Program. 	
Reform Element Three: Implement a new national preschool outcomes measure trial in 2025		
<p>How the State will participate in the National Applied 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 August 2024).</p>	<p>Measures to be undertaken 2025</p> <p>Action: Undertake a trial of the University of Melbourne’s Early Years Assessment and Learning Tool (EYALT) as part of the National Applied Trial to test its suitability and local applicability in South Australia.</p> <p>Action: Promote participation in the EYALT trial by offering a support package that provides teacher release funding to service providers for EYALT training and undertaking child learning assessments.</p> <p>Action: Continue to provide department representatives on the national Preschool Outcomes Measure trial working group.</p> <p>Action: Coordinate and participate in any National Applied Trial evaluation activities as instructed by Nous.</p>	<p>Throughout 2025</p>
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>Measures to be undertaken 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	

Reform Element	Actions	Timing
	<p>the YBFS preschool enrolment counts are used for PRA performance assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: The department 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>Throughout 2025</p>

PART 5: PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

34. Part 5 sets out the performance and reporting arrangements for the State of South Australia for 2025.
35. 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.
36. 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.
37. 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).
38. 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 2025, these should be detailed in Table 5 and 6.
39. Table 6 covers information states are required to report annually to facilitate application of Appendix A.1 and Appendix B in 2025.

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 2025 attendance data. • The standard term date for department operated preschools for Term 2 2025 in South Australia is from 28 April to 4 July 2025.
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 2025 attendance data file and the Term 3 2025 enrolment data file on or before 17 October 2025. ○ the Term 2 2025 attendance data and the Term 3 2025 enrolment data as two separate files to the ABS on or before 31 October 2025.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ re-supply of Term 2 2025 attendance data file and the Term 3 2025 enrolment data file as required by 28 November 2025 ● data quality statement by 28 November 2025.
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 2025 are eligible to start preschool at the beginning of 2025; ○ from 1 May 2025 to 31 October 2025 can commence preschool at the start of term 3 2025. ● 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 and in practice is granted to an exceedingly small number of children. ● 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 2025

40. Performance Reporting for 2025 will capture progress against planned actions undertaken by the State of South Australia as detailed at Table 4. 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 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



Signature

Date 04/03/2025

The Hon Blair Boyer

Minister for Education, Training and Skills

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by



Signature

Date 07/03/2025

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 2026)

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 2026.

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.

Annex 2 – Progress Update

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 2025 (update by 31 March 2026)

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 2025		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 2025		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 2025		A progress update on actions agreed at Table 5.
Reform Element Three: Implement a new national preschool outcomes measure from 2025			
How the State will participate in the National Applied Trial of the preschool outcomes measure, in accordance with Appendix A.2.	As per Table 5 in the Implementation Plan in 2025		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 2025		A progress update on actions agreed at Table 5.