

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Community Services
Minister for Women
The Hon. Linda Burney MP



Thursday, 24 September 2009

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER IN EVERY PRESCHOOL

Additional funding will be provided to every licensed community-based childcare centre or preschool in NSW that employs an Early Childhood Teacher as part of a national partnership on Early Childhood Education, Minister for Community Services Linda Burney today announced.

Ms Burney said this investment was aimed at encouraging preschools to employ university-qualified teachers.

“The Government is committed to making sure that children in NSW have access to quality early childhood education,” Ms Burney said.

“From mid-2011, funding will be paid to every licensed centre-based or mobile service in NSW employing an Early Childhood Teacher.

“We know that leadership and quality teaching by early childhood teachers results in positive outcomes for children.

“That is why providing funds to support the employment of university-qualified teachers is a priority under the national partnership.”

Ms Burney said that to be eligible for the Teacher Contribution Funding, services must have teachers in a primary contact teaching role or a leadership role in the design, development and implementation of the educational child program.

Eligible licensed centre-based or mobile service in NSW will receive:

- \$6,000 per three year-trained teacher per year;
- \$8,000 per four year-trained teacher per year; and
- an additional \$1,000 per year per teacher for services in remote areas.

“This is significant new investment in the quality of the early childhood workforce,” Ms Burney said.

This commitment follows the announcement last week that under the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education, NSW will receive an additional \$278.6 million over five years to increase access to early education, including community preschools.

The national partnership builds upon NSW’s current Preschool Investment and Reform Plan - the biggest reform to preschools in NSW in over 20 years.

Christine Legg, General Manager Early Childhood Education and Care, KU Children’s Services, welcomed the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education and the additional funding for the sector.

"This is an exciting time for children's services as it is the first time in many years we've seen all governments around Australia working together to improve early childhood education and care," she said.

"We have long recognised that one of the key contributors to early childhood education and care is the qualifications of staff. It is wonderful that many more children and families throughout NSW will now benefit from the unique learning experiences that teachers can provide."

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