

2023 Start Strong Program Logic



Children

Needs	Evidence says...	Inputs	Start Strong activities	Assumptions	Short to medium term outcomes/Outputs	Short to medium term measures	Long-term outcomes	Long-term measures
<p>1 >44% of NSW children are not developmentally on track when starting school</p> <p>2 Priority cohorts are most risk and experience a widened gap</p> <p>3 Developmental vulnerability at age 5 can have significant and lifelong consequences</p>	<p>1 Children who start primary school ready to learn have the best chance of thriving</p> <p>2 Children who participate in a preschool program for only one year are 1.2 times more likely to be developmentally vulnerable in 2 or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census than children who participated for 2 years</p> <p>3 Children experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage benefit the most from preschool</p> <p>4 Every \$1 invested in supporting all children to attend a preschool program in the year before school starts provides a return of \$2 over a child's life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Government Start Strong funding Australian Government funding (ongoing and new through the Preschool Reform Agreement) plus Commonwealth Child Care Subsidy Family payment of fees and levies Existing services, work-force and sector infrastructure, e.g. National Quality Framework, Early Years Learning Framework 	<p>Services use Start Strong funding to:</p> <p>Improve the service they provide, for example through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> staff development attraction and retention of staff educational resources program development <p>...with a focus on quality and meeting the early learning needs of all children in the year before school starts and 3 year olds (where applicable) in their community</p> <p>Reach out to their community to offer and promote quality ECEC to families and children who otherwise may not access it (for 3 year old program funding trial only)</p> <p>Reduce the cost of ECEC for families, using government funding to subsidise their operations and keep fees low (particularly for families who could not otherwise afford it)</p> <p>Full detail about Start Strong Activities are in the Program Guidelines</p>	<p>Funding levels can accommodate an increase in the overall quantum of children attending ECEC</p> <p>Funding changes for providers will create net benefits, rather than transfers of benefits from non-priority to priority cohorts</p> <p>The quantum of available places in childcare will increase as a result of other market stewardship activities</p>	<p>Benefits for children</p> <p>Target cohort receive below benefits of engaging in a quality ECEC (particularly priority cohorts):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early identification and response to learning support and other needs Developmental progress Developmentally on track when they start school <p>Enrolment and participation</p> <p>Target cohort enrol in, attend and engage in quality ECEC</p>	<p>Benefits for children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of children developmentally on track in all 5 preschool reform agreement domains % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children are developmentally on track in all 5 preschool reform agreement domains % of services completing formative assessments <p>Enrolment and participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of children % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children % of disadvantaged children enrol and/or attend a quality preschool program for at least 600 hours in the year before school starts 	<p>Benefits for children</p> <p>All children are supported to be successful lifelong learners through engagement in quality ECEC, regardless of setting (aligned with introduction of universal pre-kindergarten)</p>	<p>No proposed measures as attribution is not possible for long-term outcomes at this stage</p>

Families

Needs	Evidence says...	Inputs	Start Strong activities	Assumptions	Short to medium term outcomes/Outputs	Short to medium term measures	Long-term outcomes	Long-term measures
<p>1 Families find it difficult to access information and navigate services and supports</p> <p>2 ECEC is unaffordable for ~39% of Australian families, which impacts children's outcomes and parents' (often women's) economic participation</p>	<p>Increased access to preschool boosts women's workforce participation and supports economic recovery with an estimated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >\$292 million taxation revenue lift each year in Australia \$11 billion boost annually to gross domestic product 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Government Start Strong funding Australian Government funding (ongoing and new through the Preschool Reform Agreement) plus Commonwealth Child Care Subsidy Family payment of fees and levies Existing services, work-force and sector infrastructure, e.g. National Quality Framework, Early Years Learning Framework 	<p>Services use Start Strong funding to:</p> <p>Improve the service they provide, for example through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> staff development attraction and retention of staff educational resources program development <p>...with a focus on quality and meeting the early learning needs of all children in the year before school starts and 3 year olds (where applicable) in their community</p> <p>Reach out to their community to offer and promote quality ECEC to families and children who otherwise may not access it (for 3 year old program funding trial only)</p> <p>Reduce the cost of ECEC for families, using government funding to subsidise their operations and keep fees low (particularly for families who could not otherwise afford it)</p> <p>Full detail about Start Strong Activities are in the Program Guidelines</p>	<p>Funding levels can accommodate an increase in the overall quantum of children attending ECEC</p> <p>Funding changes for providers will create net benefits, rather than transfers of benefits from non-priority to priority cohorts</p> <p>The quantum of available places in childcare will increase as a result of other market stewardship activities</p>	<p>Community confidence</p> <p>Parents and carers of target cohort have greater confidence that the quality preschool program meets their child's developmental needs</p> <p>Affordability</p> <p>Target cohort enrol in, attend and engage in quality ECEC</p>	<p>Community confidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of children % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children % of disadvantaged children enrolled in a quality preschool program for at least 600 hours in the year before school starts <p>Affordability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of funding relief used as intended by services and passed onto families and carers of target cohort % of fees and levies rise at an appropriate rate Cost of ECEC is not a barrier to participation for families 	<p>ECEC Sector meets Demand and Operates Sustainably</p> <p>No barriers to access and affordability for parents and carers of target cohort with preschool free and universally accessible for all families</p> <p>ECEC Sector meets Demand and Operates Sustainably</p> <p>Parents and carers of target cohort have greater choice and capacity to participate in the workforce and women have greater economic opportunities</p>	<p>No proposed measures as attribution is not possible for long-term outcomes at this stage</p>

Services

Needs	Evidence says...	Inputs	Start Strong activities	Assumptions	Short to medium term outcomes/Outputs	Short to medium term measures	Long-term outcomes	Long-term measures
<p>There is a workforce shortage with insufficient numbers of early childhood teachers and educators entering and staying in the sector</p>	<p>A strong, stable ECE sector will help ensure all children make a strong start in life and learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Government Start Strong funding Australian Government funding (ongoing and new through the Preschool Reform Agreement) plus Commonwealth Child Care Subsidy Family payment of fees and levies Existing services, work-force and sector infrastructure, e.g. National Quality Framework, Early Years Learning Framework 	<p>Services use Start Strong funding to:</p> <p>Improve the service they provide, for example through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> staff development attraction and retention of staff educational resources program development <p>...with a focus on quality and meeting the early learning needs of all children in the year before school starts and 3 year olds (where applicable) in their community</p> <p>Reach out to their community to offer and promote quality ECEC to families and children who otherwise may not access it (for 3 year old program funding trial only)</p> <p>Reduce the cost of ECEC for families, using government funding to subsidise their operations and keep fees low (particularly for families who could not otherwise afford it)</p> <p>Full detail about Start Strong Activities are in the Program Guidelines</p>	<p>Funding levels can accommodate an increase in the overall quantum of children attending ECEC</p> <p>Funding changes for providers will create net benefits, rather than transfers of benefits from non-priority to priority cohorts</p> <p>The quantum of available places in childcare will increase as a result of other market stewardship activities</p>	<p>Sustainable Sector</p> <p>The ECEC sector meets demand and operates more sustainably</p> <p>Quality Preschool Program</p> <p>All services provide quality preschool learning environments and programs that meet the early learning needs of all children in their community</p>	<p>Sustainable Sector</p> <p>% of staff turnover at a service for early childhood teachers and educators (staff retention rates)</p> <p>Quality Preschool Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All services are meeting or exceeding National Quality Standards % of services completing Transition to School Statements % of funding allocated to salaries and wages 	<p>Sustainable Sector</p> <p>ECEC is an employer of choice</p> <p>Quality Preschool Program</p> <p>Note: There is national work underway to develop preschool specific quality measures. The measures listed in this logic will be reviewed as part of the broader annual program review.</p>	<p>No proposed measures as attribution is not possible for long-term outcomes at this stage</p>