



## National Partnership for Early Childhood Education

### Summary of activities under State and Territory Bilateral Agreements to be achieved by 2013

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education, the Commonwealth and every state and territory government is committed to ensuring that all children will have access<sup>1</sup> to a quality early childhood education program by 2013, delivered by a four-year university trained early childhood teacher, for 15 hours a week, 40 weeks a year, in the year before formal schooling.

To date, all states and territories have concluded Bilateral Agreements with the Commonwealth, including the following strategies.

#### New South Wales

New South Wales will receive \$278.6 million in Commonwealth funding over the next five years. In 2008<sup>2</sup> around 81.9 per cent of eligible New South Wales children were enrolled in 12.5 hours of preschool per week.

The New South Wales Government is committed to:

- increasing the level of participation while increasing hours of attendance that are available for children from 12.5 to 15 hours
- establishing a scheme to offset costs for licensed community-based, private or mobile services for the employment, retention or professional development of early childhood teachers
- increasing the number of four-year university trained early childhood teachers from 4980 to over 5600
- reducing barriers to participation through providing additional funding for community preschools.

<sup>1</sup> As early childhood education is not compulsory, it has been agreed that an enrolment rate of 95 per cent or higher for children in the year before full time school will equate to 'universal access' at a national or jurisdictional level.

<sup>2</sup> Includes data from the 2006 Australian Government Child Care Census.



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<b>Victoria</b>	<p>Victoria will receive \$210.6 million in Commonwealth funding over the next five years. In 2008 around 95.8 per cent of eligible Victorian children were enrolled in ten hours of kindergarten per week.</p> <p>The Victorian Government is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• maintaining the level of participation overall, while increasing hours of attendance that are available for children from ten to 15 hours</li><li>• increasing the level of participation for disadvantaged and Indigenous children</li><li>• developing programs to support delivery of 15 hours of kindergarten and ensuring they align with the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments focus on quality and integration</li><li>• attracting or developing new and existing early childhood teachers, and ensuring teachers are four-year trained</li><li>• investing in new and/or improved infrastructure to meet the additional demand for services.</li></ul>
<b>Queensland</b>	<p>Queensland will receive \$252 million in Commonwealth funding over the next five years. In 2008 around 29 per cent of eligible children in Queensland were enrolled in 12.8 hours of kindergarten per week.</p> <p>The Queensland Government is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• increasing the enrolments of children at kindergarten in a variety of settings, particularly in long day care</li><li>• lifting delivery to 15 hours a week from the current rate of around 12.8 hours a week</li><li>• taking action to improve attendance especially for disadvantaged and Indigenous children</li><li>• progressively increasing the number of early childhood trained teachers</li><li>• engaging with the child care sector to ensure delivery meets the needs of parents.</li></ul>



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### Western Australia

Western Australia will receive \$98.4 million in Commonwealth funding over the next five years. In 2008 around 95 per cent of eligible Western Australian children were enrolled in 11 hours of kindergarten per week.

The Western Australian Government is committed to:

- maintaining the level of participation while increasing hours of attendance that are available for children from 11 to 15 hours; in rolling out higher weekly hours of kindergarten priority will be given to districts with a higher number of disadvantaged and Indigenous children
- increasing the number of four-year university trained early childhood teachers
- constructing additional purpose-built facilities across the public school system to facilitate access to kindergarten at a child's local school
- providing support and working with communities to increase attendance by Indigenous children
- expanding outside school hours care programs in locations with unmet demand and holding an inquiry into the provision of kindergarten in child care settings
- providing the *Best Start* program at three additional sites to support disadvantaged and Indigenous communities.

### South Australia

South Australia will receive \$65.4 million in Commonwealth funding over the next five years. In 2008 around 87.9 per cent of eligible South Australian children were enrolled in 11 hours of preschool per week.

The South Australian Government is committed to:

- increasing the high level of participation while increasing hours of attendance that are available for children from 11 to 15 hours
- maintaining affordability for parents
- increasing the number of four-year university trained early childhood teachers
- providing subsidies for teachers in child care centres in communities with unmet demand for early childhood education
- improving data, especially in relation to attendance information.



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<b>Tasmania</b>	<p>Tasmania will receive \$20.4 million in Commonwealth funding over the next five years. In 2008 around 97.5 per cent of eligible Tasmanian children were enrolled in ten hours of kindergarten per week.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• maintaining the high level of participation while increasing hours of attendance that are available for children from ten to 15</li><li>• increasing the number of four-year university trained early childhood teachers</li><li>• improving data collection</li><li>• maintaining programs that support early childhood education such as Launching into Learning, Family Support Workers, and Aboriginal Early Years Liaison Officers.</li></ul>
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	<p>The Australian Capital Territory will receive \$13.2 million in Commonwealth funding over the next five years. In 2009 around 94 per cent of eligible ACT children were enrolled in 12 hours of preschool per week.</p> <p>The Australian Capital Territory Government is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• increasing the high level of participation while increasing hours of attendance that are available for children from 12 to 15 hours</li><li>• implementing 15 hours in early childhood schools and those schools with higher numbers of disadvantaged and Indigenous children</li><li>• funding to increase to 15 hours of preschool in independent schools and child care centres</li><li>• increasing the number of four-year university trained early childhood teachers by 35 per cent</li><li>• providing subsidies to child care centres that have children that do not access a government preschool</li><li>• building capacity of existing infrastructure – particularly in long day care settings.</li></ul>



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### Northern Territory

The Northern Territory will receive \$15.9 million in Commonwealth funding over the next five years. In 2008 around 88.7 per cent of eligible Northern Territory children were enrolled in 12 hours of preschool per week.

The Northern Territory Government is committed to:

- increasing the level of participation while increasing hours of attendance that are available for children from 12 to 15 hours
- increasing preschool participation for Indigenous children through developing a territory wide plan for delivery of preschool in small remote communities and town camps
- increasing the proportion of four year early childhood trained teachers.

Copies of the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education and the completed Bilateral Agreements are available on the Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations' website:

[www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au](http://www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au).