

# Flying Start

Professional Networks



# Acknowledgement of Country

## From the heart:

We acknowledge the Aboriginal peoples as the First peoples of South Australia and as custodians of the lands, waters, skies and communities where we live, learn and raise children.

We recognise Aboriginal peoples as having the longest living culture, raising children safe and strong in their Identity, Community, Culture, and connection to Country.

We pay our deep respects to Elders past and present, and their role as the first knowledge sharers for children. We follow in their footsteps.

Aboriginal peoples, working with and for children, are central in shaping our work. Their wisdom, advice, and guidance enriches our practices, creating a more inclusive and culturally safe environment for children and families.

We respect Aboriginal peoples' ways of being, doing and wise practices guiding our continual learning.

Together we walk and build stronger, more supportive communities for all children.



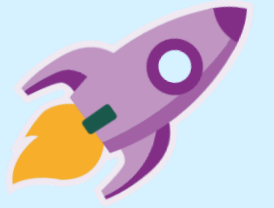


## By the end of today's session

You should know more about:

- The Flying Start Professional Networks
- Professional Network Leads
- Time commitment and identifying your Professional Network member
- Aboriginal Professionals Network - statewide
- Roll out plan for 2025





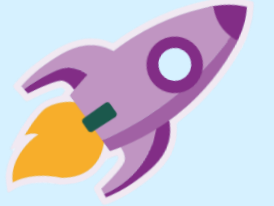
# Professional Network Overview

Professional Networks support early childhood professionals, allied health and community services professionals to:

- Build peer relationships and share reflective practice
- Connect with professionals outside the early learning discipline as well as allied health and community services organisations
- Support the successful implementation of early childhood reforms including the implementation of 3-year-old preschool
- Lead the translation of insights from the network into service-level practices.



# Professional Network Elements



- Up to 31 place-based networks in local communities
- 25-30 Members per network
- One staff member from each partner preschool and invited members from allied health and community services
- Early learning reforms and reducing developmental vulnerability
- Agenda and actions collaboratively developed by each group
- OECD funding to June 2027 (with possible one year extension)
- Backfill contribution for one staff member per partner preschool



# Professional Network Leads

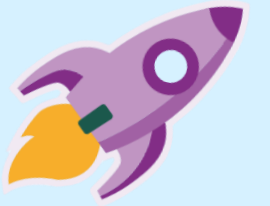


The Professional Network Grants Program was undertaken in the first half of 2025 and 13 grants awarded. One state-wide Aboriginal Professionals Network. OECD are working to identify leads for the remaining networks.

OECD Region	Grant Recipient	In progress
Region 1	A) Kozy Kids Glenside B) Montessori Management & Mentoring	x1
Region 2	A) Kalaya Children's Centre B) The Lady Gowrie Child Centre C) The Lady Gowrie Child Centre	x1
Region 3	No grants awarded	x3
Region 4	No grants awarded	x2
Region 5	A) Enhance Barossa Mental Health B) Trinity College Gawler	x2
Region 6	A) CELA (Community Early Learning Australia) B) Aldinga Beach Children's Centre	x2
Region 7	A) Regional Development Australia B) CELA (Community Early Learning Australia)	x2
Region 8	A) Glencoe Central Primary School (DfE SECAV) C) CELA (Community Early Learning Australia)	x3
Aboriginal Professionals Network	Tauondi Aboriginal College	



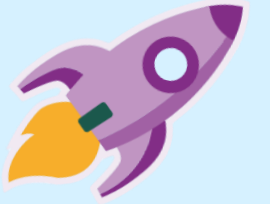
# Support for Professional Network Leads



- Diverse range of organisations and backgrounds.
- Support through induction sessions, skills development series and small group coaching.
- Integrating consistency in set up and running with local knowledge and building relationships.



# Member identification and commitment



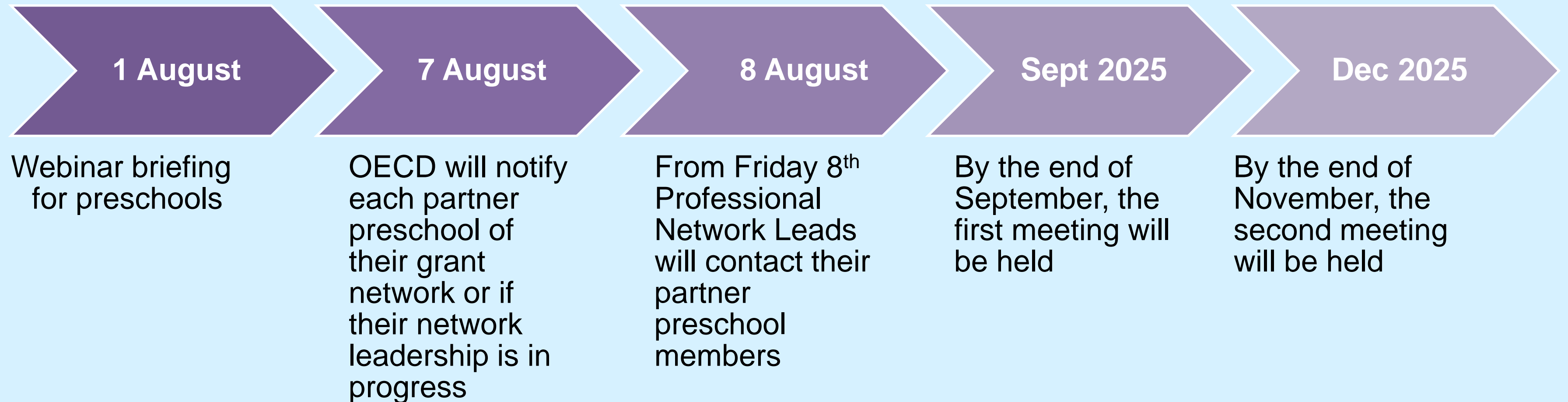
- One staff member from each partner preschool
  - Aligned with professional development goals
  - Attend for the two-year period
- Backfill contribution via preschool funding agreement
- 12 hours of meeting and collaboration time per year
  - One 3-hour face to face meeting per year
  - Networks may develop alternate model through consultation with members



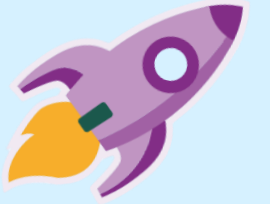
# Professional Networks Timing



## Professional Networks with a grant recipient lead - First meetings to be held in September



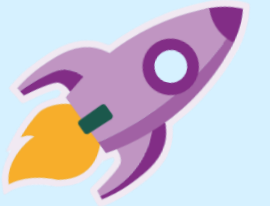
# Networks where leads are being identified



- The OECD is working within regions to identify leaders for each of the remaining networks.
- We are hopeful the first meeting for all networks will be held by the end of the year.
- At the latest, all 3-year-old preschools will have access to a Professional Network at the start of 2026.
- OECD will contract Professional Network Leads on a rolling basis and communicate updates with preschools throughout 2025.



# Aboriginal Professionals Network - statewide



- Tauondi Aboriginal College
- SAAETCC, The South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council.
- Early stages of planning, collaboration and codesign
- Express interest via email next week.
- We will continue to share information with partner preschools as the codesign work progresses.



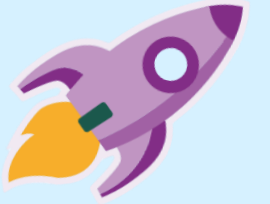
## Next steps



- Consider who you will nominate to participate
- Identify interest in the state-wide Aboriginal Professionals Network
- Next week email with the slides from today's session
- By Thursday you will receive an email either:
  - Providing information about your local Professional Network or
  - Identification of your network lead is still in progress
  - Plus expression of interest in the Aboriginal Professionals Network.
- Where your Professional Network Lead is identified, you will be contacted by them after 8 August. Once contacted, you can provide them with the contact details of the member that will be participating from your preschool.



# Preschool Toolkit – coming soon!



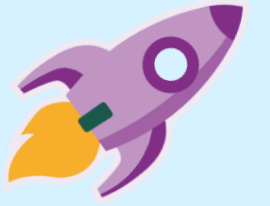
- Suite of reputable, high quality, contemporary resources to support educational leaders, early childhood teachers and teaching teams prepare for the roll-out of 3-year-old preschool.
- The Toolkit will be released in three tranches – the first tranche will be released by **end September 2025**.
- Hard copies to be distributed to Flying Start preschool partners + online access via the Department for Education’s Learner Management System, PLINK.
- To support the effective use of the Preschool Toolkit, free professional learning opportunities will be available to educators, including face-to-face and online sessions.
- Special focus on the Toolkit in the webinar on September 26.



# Questions



## Connect with us:



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Website: [www.earlychildhood.sa.edu.au](http://www.earlychildhood.sa.edu.au)

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