Flying Start Partners Webinar – 6 October 2026

Getting families ready for 2027: Consent and confirmation

Q & A Summary

Child Eligibility

Q. Can children who start school at age 6 participate in Flying Start preschool at ages four and five in the two years before school?

A. Children can access up to 8 terms (2 years) of funded Flying Start preschool, in the year and two-years before starting school.

Some children may therefore be 4 years old while participating in the 3-year-old (two years before fulltime school) preschool program, and 5 years old while participating in the 4-year-old (year before fulltime school) preschool program.

However, children are no longer eligible for Flying Start preschool funding once they reach compulsory school age (6 years old).

Child Participation

Q. Does a family need to complete the new confirmation and consent forms for their child when moving from 3-year-old to 4-year-old preschool?

A. If the child is moving from 3-year-old to 4-year-old preschool at the service, and consent to share information has already been obtained, the service will need to issue the 4-year-old confirmation notice and if the family intends for their child to access the funded 4-year-old preschool at the service, they will need to complete this notice and return to the service.

Q. What is the process for families to opt out of 3-year-old preschool at a partner Long Day Care Service?

A. Eligible 3-year-old children at a partner long day care service will receive their funded Flying Start preschool program at that service, unless their family chooses to opt out or delay commencement.

Partner services are required to provide families with the 3-year-old preschool confirmation notice and families will have 1 month from receiving the notice to opt out or delay their child's commencement by providing a reason.

If the family intends for their child to commence 3-year-old preschool on the expected date, no action is required.

Q. Do children enrolled in 4-year-old only Universal Access Preschool need to complete the new 2027 Flying Start confirmation and consent forms?

A. No. This new process only applies to Flying Start Partner services. Services delivering the 4-year-old only program under a Preschool Reform Agreement (PRA) will continue to use the existing 4-year-old declaration and consent form.

Q. Can a child participate in Flying Start 3-year-old preschool at a new Partner long day care service if they did not opt out at their previous service?

A. Families can move their child to another Flying Start Partner Long Day Care service at any time. However, a child can only access one funded Flying Start preschool place at a time.

Before enrolling at a new service, the family should advise their current long day care that they are withdrawing.

The OECD conducts checks to ensure only one service receives Flying Start funding for each child.

Q. Why are confirmation and consent forms required six months before a child commences preschool?

Gaining consent and providing confirmation notices six months before a child commences preschool allows the OECD to undertake data collection to support services and families with eligibility confirmation.

The OECD collect data for ‘planned enrolments’ for some services 5 months before the commencement of the semester (i.e. in February and August). Over time, all services will need to be providing this planned enrolment data to allow the OECD to conduct duplicate enrolment checking and support application of the eligibility policy.

Q. Will there be flexibility with this timeframe, given the new forms are only being released shortly before the six-month period begins for 2027 enrolments?

A. Where services receive a **new** enrolment less than 6-months before the child is eligible for Flying Start preschool, the service will need to obtain consent and issue confirmation notices as soon as possible.

Where declaration and consent has already been obtained from families for 2027 Flying Start preschool, services **will not** need to ask families to complete the new 2027 forms.

For children due to commence 3-year-old preschool in a partner long day care service from mid-year 2027, services are expected to provide families with the new consent and confirmation in January.

Q. Can the consent and enrolment forms more clearly explain for families, that Flying Start funding is paid to the partner service rather than directly to families?

A. The 3-year-old preschool confirmation form states that if the child remains enrolled in the service, the service will receive funding to support the child's learning and development through their Flying Start 3-year-old preschool program.

Data collection and reporting

Q. Will services need to submit both quarterly data and planned enrolment data in Term 1 and Term 3 from 2027?

If so, how will these reporting requirements align?

All partner services are required to submit data quarterly for enrolment and per capita funding.

If a service is in an area where a sessional preschool service is also located, they are required to submit planned enrolment data to check for duplicate enrolments and support services and families to adhere to the eligibility requirements.

Over time, all partner services will be required to submit planned enrolment data twice yearly as the rollout continues, alongside their quarterly data collections. Providers and partner services will be notified when this becomes a requirement for them.

Q. What are the funding implications if a family does not consent to information sharing? Can the child be included in data collection, and how might this affect the funding the service receives?

A. Family consent is required for the service to share the child and family's personal information with the OECD.

If a family does not consent to information sharing, the service cannot include the child's data for collection purposes, and the OECD cannot provide funding to the partner service for that child.

Operational planning and enrolment timing

Q. Will there be flexibility around enrolment and consent process timeframes? February can be a challenging period for services as children settle in, families change enrolments and services continue filling available places.

A. The new approach is designed to make it easier for services and families. Partner services can seek consent as early as practicable to avoid busy periods.

If consent has not been received the service will be unable to submit enrolment data to the OECD.

Accessing partner information

Q. Where can services find the 2027 confirmation and consent forms?

A. The forms and information about the process are now available on the Partner Portal.

Q. How can Partner Services be added to the Partner e-bulletin distribution list?

A. The e-bulletin is sent to the email address(es) of each partner service provided to the OECD when contracting or subsequently updated through their Local Team.

If you or a staff member would like to receive the e-bulletin directly, please email oecdengage@sa.gov.au and we can arrange this.

Q. Can services access the slide deck from today's webinar?

A. Yes. A link to the slide deck on the Partner Portal will be included in the Partner e-bulletin scheduled for distribution on 21 October.

Communications with families

Q. Will new families commencing in Term 1 2027, receive a welcome email or any other information from the OECD about Flying Start Preschool?

A. Parter services will be able to provide families with a welcome pack containing information about Flying Start preschool and practical, branded items for children to enjoy.

Local Teams will deliver the packs to partner long day care services between late November and early December of this year.