

Flying Start 2026 Webinar 12 September

Data & Funding

Q & A summary

Q: When is the due date for services to submit their enrolment data?

A: Services are required to submit their enrolment data by the 7 November 2025.

Q: Is the data collection and reporting process for 3-year-old preschool the same as for 4-year-old preschool?

A: Yes. For services under the Flying Start agreement, data collection for both 3- and 4-year-olds will follow the same process.

Q: What happens if a service submits their enrolment data in November, but it changes afterwards?

A: We understand that enrolment numbers can change, with some families enrolling their children and then withdrawing later.

The payment services receive in January will be based on the anticipated enrolment data submitted in November.

All future payments will be based on the previous quarter's enrolment data.

Where there is a significant change from projected enrolments used to calculate the very first funding allocation and the first quarter of confirmed enrolments, funding may be adjusted at the discretion of the OECD. Services can make a written request to oe.cd.preschoolfunding@sa.gov.au.

Q. Do you have a process in place to cross check enrolments and eligibility for Flying Start 3-year-old preschool program in partner services against enrolments in government sessional preschools?

A: Under the Flying Start funding agreement, children enrolled in a 3-year-old preschool program at a partnering long day care service cannot also be enrolled in a government sessional preschool offering the same program at the same time.

To help manage this, the OECD will conduct regular checks to prevent duplicate enrolments.

Q. How can services manage situations where families planning for Flying Start preschool in 2027 wish to cancel their enrolment to remain eligible for a government sessional preschool?

A. Under the current Flying Start funding rules, children can be enrolled in only one 3-year-old preschool program, either through a long day care service or a government sessional preschool.



We're here to support services in promoting the value of 3-year-old preschool at their centre, highlighting the high-quality, flexible learning they provide, and helping families make informed choices that best meet their needs. Please reach out to your Local Team for further support in having these conversations with families at your centre.

Q: Is there a specific date when services must submit their Early Childhood Teacher (ECT) status information?

A: Services are required to submit their data by November 7, which will include the formal reporting of Early Childhood Teacher (ECT) status.

In addition, ECT information will be collected monthly by our Local Team members.

We encourage services to be proactive in communicating any changes to their ECT status with their Local Team member.

Keeping this information up to date helps us support services in being fully prepared to deliver the preschool program in 2026.

Q: Do services receive Preschool Boost and backfill payments in January based on their annual enrolment figures?

A: Yes. Services will receive their Preschool Boost funding including backfill, in January 2026. Funding is based on anticipated annual enrolments and Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) data.

