

Flying Start for kids

Welcoming new partners

29 May 2026



Government of
South Australia



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.



In today's session

- Hear from our Chief Executive, Kim Little, on the vision behind Flying Start
- Gain an overview of the Flying Start reforms
- Learn practical tips and insights from services already delivering Flying Start
- Be introduced to Local Teams and the support available to you as a partner
- Learn more about the partnership requirements and Policy and Funding Guide
- Understand how to stay informed and connected
- Learn about next steps and key dates

Welcome, Kim Little, Chief Executive

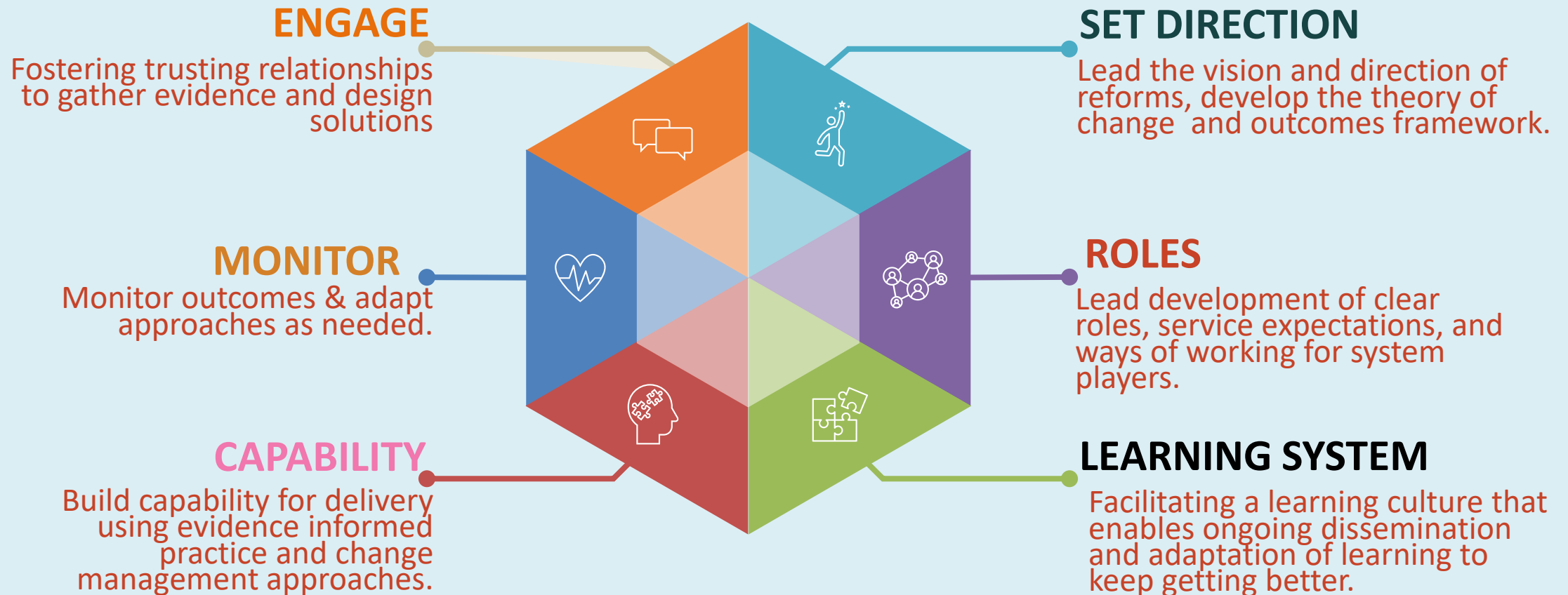


- Passionate advocate for high-quality early learning and equitable access, supporting every child's opportunity to thrive.
- Former lead Deputy Secretary for the implementation of the Victorian Government's ambitious Education State kindergarten reforms.
- Has built a diverse career spanning government, higher education, law and academia, bringing a unique mix of strategic, policy and real-world leadership experience.
- Her experience includes working as a philosopher at Monash University and as a corporate lawyer.
- Grew up in rural and remote Queensland and Papua New Guinea, and now proudly calls South Australia home.

Why Flying Start matters

- The Royal Commission found starting high-quality learning earlier can make a real difference for children.
- 90% of brain development occurs before age five.
- Nearly a quarter of five-year-olds in South Australia are starting school behind their development milestones.
- In response the state government has committed \$1.9 billion to strengthen ECEC and expand access to high-quality preschool earlier, helping more children develop and thrive.
- The goal is to reduce developmental vulnerability by 15% (AEDC).

What's the role of the OECD?



Helping partner services to be:



Warm and Welcoming

Committed to Quality

Acting early, with others

Flying Start key initiatives



- Teacher-led, play-based preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds.
- Additional support for children and families through Preschool Boost funding, targeted where it's needed most.
- Growing and strengthening the workforce, including funding for more qualified early childhood teachers, professional development, access to high quality teaching resources and professional networks.
- Building service capability and connection through communities of practice and shared learning opportunities.
- Integrated hubs that connect support for early education and care and other services and offer more holistic care for families.



Flying Start 3-year-old preschool

Let's hear from some of our partner services already delivering Flying Start:

- What's been most exciting and beneficial?
- What's been challenging, and how have you navigated this?
- What benefits have you seen for children and families?

Meet the panel



Danielle Mamone, Centre Director
St Morris Community Child Care Centre



April Watson, Director
Loxton District Children's Centre

Partnership requirements

Service priority	Partnership requirements
<p>Warm and welcoming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a welcoming and culturally safe preschool program for Aboriginal children and families. • Ensure environments are genuinely inclusive, where every child is seen as a capable learner and a valued participant • Implement priority of access policy for 3-year-old preschool • Complete Aboriginal Cultural safety training • Complete Trauma informed practice training

Partnership requirements

Service priority	Partnership requirements
<p>Committed to quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a teacher-led preschool program • Provide ECTs with additional 'time off the floor' including an addition 2 hours of non-contact planning time and 2 days professional development, above award • Demonstrate commitment to workforce development, including training, placements, and educator upskilling • Participate in Flying Start Professional Networks • Services rated as Working Towards the National Quality Standards must participate the Quality Uplift Program

Partnership requirements

Service priority	Partnership requirements
<p>Acting early, with others on developmental vulnerability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake Preschool Boost planning and implementation that aligns to children’s developmental needs <p><i>*Some services will be identified to become a Preschool Plus service provider. This means providing additional hours of preschool alongside other supports for an identified cohort of children at highest risk of developmental vulnerability. There will be additional requirements and funding supports available for this program.</i></p>

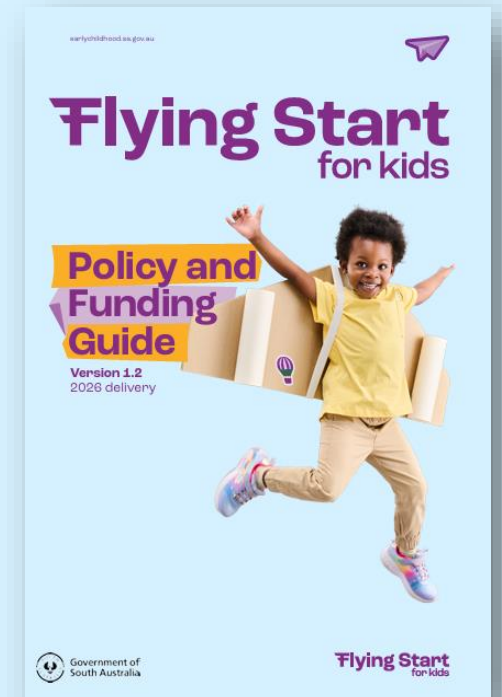
Partnership requirements

To maintain funding eligibility, Partner Providers are required to meet their obligations as outlined in the **Policy and Funding Guide** that include:

- Meet funding and program reporting requirements, including where you need to notify the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD)
- Complete annual funding acquittals
- Ensure parent / carer consent for information sharing
- Maintain appropriate documentation
- Adhering to transparency requirements, including funding and program information to families

* The OECD will periodically review financial viability to support service continuity.

* The OECD will periodically review provider and services' commitment to quality and safety, through information shared by the Education Standards Board.



Support from Local Teams



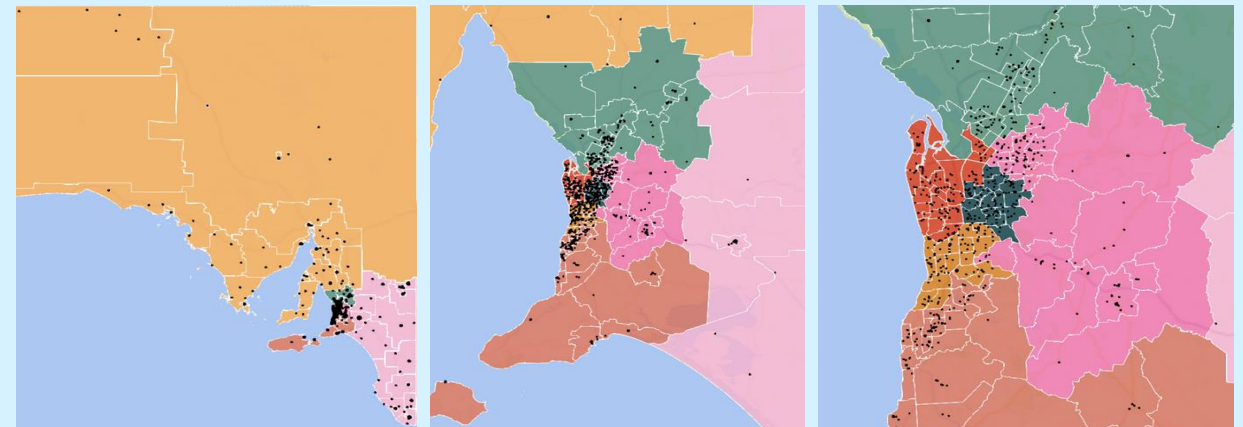
Our state-wide network of 8 Local Teams will support you to implement Flying Start preschool by:

- Offering practical guidance
- Up to date information
- Implementation support.

Contact Information:

oeed.localteams@sa.gov.au

Regions



Region 1
Region 2

Region 3
Region 4

Region 5
Region 6

Region 7
Region 8

Important information



- Please hold off on announcing your Flying Start partnership through any public channels or sharing the news with families until after 12 midday on the 2 June when the Hon. Lucy Hood MP will be announcing the next group of Flying Start partners.

What's next





- Attend upcoming Flying Start partner webinars to build your readiness for delivery. A calendar and topic outline will be shared soon.
- Our next webinar in June will cover the enrolment process for families.
- Receive promotional materials from OECD to help you share the news of your partnership.
- Your Local Team will work with you over the coming weeks to understand partnership requirements and begin planning for delivery.
- For mid-year partners: Local Teams will also support you to prepare for the family registration process.

Tip: Now is a good time to familiarise yourself with the Policy and Funding Guide.

Stay informed and connected



- Visit the Flying Start Partner Page for key information, and resources to support you in delivering Flying Start Preschool.
- Password: Flying Start! 
- Stay up to date with our fortnightly Flying Start partners e-bulletin, delivered straight to your inbox.
- Direct families to the OECD website for general information: www.flyingstart.sa.gov.au 
- Encourage families to download the Early Years app 
- Connect with us on social media:
 - Instagram: [@earlychildhoodsa](https://www.instagram.com/earlychildhoodsa)
 - Facebook: [@earlychildhoodsa](https://www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodsa)
 - LinkedIn: [Office for Early Childhood Development](https://www.linkedin.com/company/office-for-early-childhood-development)

Questions

