



Guidance for expressing interest to deliver Flying Start preschool in 2027

The Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) will open expressions of interest (EOIs) for the delivery of Flying Start 3- and 4-year-old preschool in 2027 (round 2).

EOIs will open for submission on **Monday 8 December 2025** and close at **5.00pm ACDT on Thursday 12 February 2026**.

For providers and services to be eligible to partner with the OECD for preschool delivery, they need to meet a set of core requirements as articulated in the [Policy and Funding Guide](#). All interested applicants should read the provider eligibility, organisational requirements and service eligibility as outlined in the [Policy and Funding Guide](#).

Services will be assessed and prioritised for 2027 preschool partnership based on quality, workforce and location, including:

Quality and safety

- Providers must demonstrate a commitment to quality and safety in education and care in their services and across their local network.
- The OECD will work with the Education Standards Board to understand where a provider and/or service has been in receipt of compliance concerns of a systemic nature that would impact on the delivery of a quality preschool program or the operation of the service.
- Where systemic quality and safety risks are identified through this process, either the provider or individual service will be deemed ineligible for partnership in 2027.
- Services Working Towards the National Quality Standards will be eligible to apply but will be required to complete a Quality Uplift Program if they are prioritised for partnership.
- Services that have a Service Approval Number but have a National Quality Standard rating of Provisional – Not Yet Assessed, will be eligible to apply however may not be prioritised for partnership in 2027.

Workforce

- The capacity of a service to deliver a quality preschool program hinges on the availability of appropriately qualified Early Childhood Teacher/s (ECT) to lead the program. An individual will be considered a qualified ECT if they:
 - are registered with the Teachers Registration Board of South Australia (TRB), and hold a degree that at a minimum, meets National Quality Framework qualification requirements; or
 - are completing or have completed a qualification approved by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority and hold a Special Authority to Teach as an Early Childhood Teacher (ECT SAT) from the TRB.
- The OECD will therefore be asking for your current and proposed ECT and ECT SAT resourcing as part of the EOI, to determine a service's capacity to deliver a 3- and 4-year-old preschool program from January 2027.

Location

- The State Government's overarching objective is to maximise the supply of quality teacher-led 3-year-old preschool provision across the state, including promoting supply in



areas and for communities that would most benefit from preschool provision early in the roll-out.

- Where there are more eligible services expressing interest than there is capacity for partnerships in 2027, the following location-related factors will be considered:
 - Level of socio-economic disadvantage for the area the service is located (represented by a SEIFA quintile score)
 - Proximity to sessional services that are commencing 3-year-old provision early in the roll-out (to support sufficient supply in these areas to best meet demand). [See 3-year-old preschool roll-out schedule](#).
 - Geographic spread (to maximise access for all South Australian communities and minimise gaps in supply across the state).

The OECD has absolute discretion to restrict a service's ability to participate in a Flying Start preschool program.

Providers and services not regulated under the *National Law and Regulations*

The OECD will consider the eligibility of providers that meet the preschool program objectives but are not currently approved providers under National Law and National Regulations.

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) that are not currently approved providers under the National Law and National Regulations, can express interest to deliver 3- and 4-year-old preschool at any time throughout 2025 and 2026, to start in the following year or at a later date, when their service is ready. Please contact the OECD at OECD.PreschoolFunding@sa.gov.au or express interest via [South Australian Government - Expression of Interest for Early Childhood Education and Care Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations](#)

All other providers not regulated under National Law and Regulations that are interested in becoming a Flying Start preschool provider can apply through the round 2 expression of interest.

Additional information

Services that did not express interest or were not selected in EOI round 1 are welcome to express interest for 2027 partnership.

If you are a potential new long day care service that does not have a Service Approval Number by the close of the EOI (**Thursday 12 February 2026**), you will need to express interest in future rounds.

EOIs must be submitted via the iApply platform. EOIs that are not submitted by 5pm ACDT on Thursday 12 February 2026 will not be considered, and therefore you are encouraged to complete your submission well before the closing date and time. The iApply link and a step-by-step user guide will be available on the OECD website. Please note ECEC ACCO services can express interest at any time – please contact the OECD per information above.

For further information on the EOI process, service eligibility, timeframes or if you have any other queries, please contact the OECD's Local Teams via OECD.LocalTeams@sa.gov.au.

